June 1, 1964

The Mint Birmingham
Birmingham, England

Gentlemen:

I am coming to England, in July, on vacation, and am going to be in Birmingham. I enjoy doing research and writing on numismatics and have had published a substantial amount of material which covered Anglo-American coinage.

I understand that you have the complete files of Matthew Boulton and I am particularly interested in endeavoring to prove whether coins produced at his mint in 1791 and 1792 were submitted as patterns for United States coinage. I am familiar with the Mitchell-Boulton correspondence which was published but there are, no doubt, many other letters from Boulton to other parties in the 1791 and 1792 period which might throw light on my work.

The coins in question contain the bust of George Washington with the legend WASHINGTON PRESIDENT and contain an Eagle on the reverse. Some of them contain the words ONE CENT; others contain the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA milled on to the edge. The dies were apparently cut by Hancock.

Would you be kind enough to advise me whether I would be permitted to examine this material the second or third week in July.

If you desire any references with respect to my sincerity, I am known by Mr. C. Wilson Peck, Mr. David F.Spink, The Baldwin Family, and Mr. Michael Dolley, all of whom are numismatists you no doubt know.

If there is someone who is familiar with the Boulton papers and with whom I could be in contact,before my arrival, I would appreciate such a suggestion.

I look forward to hearing from you by return air mail.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri, U.S. A.

EPN/atb

THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

MONEY MUSEUM

Rockefeller Center

1254 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020

June 3, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Street
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I enclose copies of two newspaper prints for your collection. One of these I mentioned to you last week. I have not as yet had a chance to research your New York material, but will do so in a couple of days.

It has occurred to me that I still need original copies of my Mitchell-Boulton correspondence and am, therefore, writing the Mint, Birmingham today. I will inquire about the 1791-2 letters at that time.

We have been tentatively offered a dummy model of the 1928 one dollar silver certificate which was submitted to Mellon, and approved by him on May 26th, 1927. Mellon's signature is on the mounting. If you would be interested in such an item let me know, and I will put you in contact with the owner.

Thank you again for the wonderful time I had at your house. It was the only thing I enjoyed in St. Louis.

Kindest regards,

Don Taxay

DT:ht

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7742

MBL

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LIMITED

BIRMINGHAM, 18.

8th June, 1964.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400, Washington Avenue,
St. Louis,
Missouri,
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your letter of 1st June expressing your interest in the work of Matthew Boulton. It would seem that you have been misinformed as we do not possess any files on his work. Our only connection was that in the year 1850 we purchased the minting machinery from the Boulton & Watt factory.

The only suggestion that I can make is for you to write to the City of Birmingham Reference Library, Ratcliff Place, Birmingham, 1 and enquire if they have the information you are seeking.

If, during your visit to this country, you do come to Birmingham and would like to visit our works we shall be pleased to show you round.

Yours truly,
for THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LIMITED.

W.R.P. King

W.R.P. King
Managing Director.

June 10, 1964

City of Birmingham
Reference Library
Ratcliff Place
Birmingham 1, England

Gentlemen:

I am coming to England in July and would like to examine the letters and papers of Matthew Boulton who, as you well know, operated the Boulton and Watt Mint outside Birmingham. I am doing some writing with respect to coins which he attempted to sell to the United States in 1791 and 1792.

I am not sure as to where his papers are, in Birmingham, and thought that you might be able to advise me. It is possible that they are at the Assay Office, in Birmingham, the address of which I do not know.

I wrote the Mint Birmingham and the Mint suggested that I contact you.

If these papers are at the Assay Office, would you be kind enough to turn this letter over to them for their reply. If you have the papers would you be kind enough to tell me if I need any references in order to examine them. I am a member of the British Numismatic Society and am well acquainted with some of the English numismatic writers.

Would you be kind enough to answer by return air mail.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Eric P. Newman
P.O.Box 14020
St.Louis, Missouri 63178
U.S.A.

bc
Mr. Don Taxay

EPN/atb

THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK
MONEY MUSEUM

Rockefeller Center

1254 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020

11 June 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Street
Saint Louis 2
Missouri.

Dear Eric:

It seems you and I are very much behind the times. To understand what I mean, please read Seaby's bulletins of October and November 1962. Julian has dug up the whole background on the Washington cents, and has been hiding his light under an English bushel.

All for now. Will write again in a few days.

Kindest regards,

Don Taxay.

June 12, 1964

Mr. R. W. Julian
1003 Riverside Drive
Logansport, Indiana

Dear Mr.Julian:

I just received reprints of the article I wrote on Nature Printing and am pleased to enclose one for you in view of the fact that you have done so much research in the early American period.

I am advised that you did some writing on the Washington President pieces in the Seaby Bulletin for October and November of 1962 and I was wondering if you have a spare copy of this article. If you do not and would lend me your copy of the Bulletin I will have it photocopied.

I plan to go to Birmingham, England, at the end of the month and was wondering if there are any additional items you would want to have me look up for you or ~~ch~~check as this is a most fascinating subject.

I am going to try to telephone you tonight but am writing you, nevertheless, so that I can send the reprint.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 6951-2-3

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE "ASSAY MASTER"

NEWHALL STREET

BIRMINGHAM 3.

Your ref:-EPN/atb.

15th June, 1964.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of 10th June addressed to the Reference Library, Birmingham.

We have some material in our collection relating to the early United States coinage but this is not very extensive.

This material is available for study but we should be grateful if you could supply references. Perhaps you would also let us have a few days notice of your arrival.

This Office is closed on Saturday and the collection will not be available on the 16th and 17th July.

Yours faithfully,

(A.H. Westwood).
Assay Master.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
P.O. Box. No.14020,
St. Louis,
Missouri, 63178.
U.S.A.

June 16, 1964

Mr. Don Taxay
The Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum
1254 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear Don,

I am re-reading the Matthew Boulton correspondence. I am studying the Jefferson Papers, Volume 16. I am studying the May, 1964 Scrapbook, and Ray Williamson is sending me all of his microfilm and other documents relating to Boulton. I am getting the Seaby articles by Julian. I spoke to Julian and he said you wrote him. What do you know about Obadiah Westwood?

I have no answer, yet, from either the Assay Office, or the library, in Birmingham.

In your book on Mint History, don't make any point of the identity of the edge leaves on the Continental Dollars, the Novas in silver, or the Washington Getz piece. They are, apparently, all different, and now I am advised that there are even differences within the categories themselves. I have lots of homework to do.

I will keep you advised as to what I find.

Thanks, so much, for helping me, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Mr. A.H.Westwood, Assay Master
Assay Office
Newhall Street
Birmingham 3, England

June 18, 1964

Dear Mr. Westwood:

Thank you for your letter of 15 June, 1964 with reference to my desire to examine certain papers in your office relating to early coinage for the United States. I will gladly notify you in advance of the date of my arrival. I have microfilm of some of the material in your office and hope to confine my research to as short a period as possible.

As to references, Mr. C.Wilson Peck, 31 Vineyard Hill Road, Wimbledon Park, London, S.W.19, England, the authority on English coinage, knows me and my research work. Mr. R.H.M.Dolley, formerly of the British Museum staff, Numismatic Section, is a good friend of mine. I am known to David F. Spink, of Spink & Son, in Londong and A. H. Baldwin & Sons, London.

Your name makes me inquire as to whether you are a descendant of Obadiah Westwood or John Westwood, diesinkers and coiners, of Birmingham, England, in the late 18th century. It so happens that evidence has recently been located that Obadiah Westwood coined the 1791 one cent pieces which were submitted to the United States of America in an effort to obtain a coining contract. Additional pieces were submitted dated 1792 and it is not clear as to their source. Is it possible that any papers or records of Obadiah Westwood are in your family, or elsewhere, to your knowledge? Obadiah Westwood, in 1775, lived at 21 Great Charles Street. His diemaker was John Gregory Hancock, who lived on Hospital Street.

Would you also be kind enough to let me know whether Dr.Robert J. Hetherington, whose address in 1952 was 14 Drayton Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, 14, is still in Birmingham, since he apparently has done considerable research in your files and in numismatics generally. He is very much interested in Boulton. He would be 40 years old and his family has lived in Birmingham for 5 generations. One of my friends, in America, Raymond H. Williamson, was in correspondence with him in 1952 and wanted me to contact him if he were in Birmingham.

I would be very grateful to hear from you with respect to the above as there is sufficient time before I come to England.

Thank you for your cooperation in the interest of numismatics.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Robert J. Hetherington
21 Mimosa clo. (29)
Birmingham

PRI 4-201

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 400 WASHINGTON AVE. MAIL: P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63178

Mr. A.H.Westwood, Assay Master
Assay Office
Newhall Street
Birmingham 3, England

June 18, 1964

Dear Mr. Westwood:

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I would be very grateful to hear from you with respect to the above as there is sufficient time before I come to England.

Thank you for your cooperation in the interest of numismatics.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Established 1872

A.H.BALDWIN & SONS, LTD.

DIRECTORS A.H.F.BALDWIN W.V.R.BALDWIN D.D.MITCHELL A.BALDWIN

Numismatists

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

THE ADELPHI,
1-11 JOHN ADAM STREET,
(Ground Floor)
Tel. TRAfalgar 2455 (Unchanged) LONDON, W.C.2.

Telegrams NUMISMOS RAND LONDON

Ref. AB/JCV

26th June, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
P.O. Box 14020,
ST. LOUIS,
Missouri 63178,
U. S. A.

Dear Eric Newman,

Many thanks for your air letter of the 23rd June to which we are replying straight away so that you may have a note before you leave on July 1st. We are glad to know that you are forsaking Outer Mongolia and coming to this country again for your holiday.

At short notice it is difficult to give you any help on your visit to Birmingham. Presumably you know where the Boulton papers are housed, I do not off-hand but could easily find out for you. As for Obadiah Westwood I have no information at all but will make one or two inquiries in case there is any information for you. Perhaps you should let me have a forwarding address when you reach London Airport and head West.

We will able to talk about forgeries when you are in London but so far we have not seen any of the particular ones you detail. As for Uncle Fred's London elephant pieces, they will be here for you to see, if possible but I have a suspicion that he has disposed of them.

We are all looking forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely,
for A. H. BALDWIN & SONS, LTD.
Albert Baldwin

To open cut here

Sender's name and address: A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd

The Medal,

1-11 Pemberton Street,

London, W.C. 2.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

First fold here

Second fold here

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME



Mr. E. P. Norden,

P.O. Box 14020,

ST. LOUIS,

Missouri 63178,

U.S.A.

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 6951-2-3

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE "ASSAY MASTER"

NEWHALL STREET

BIRMINGHAM 3.

29th June, 1964.

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your letter of 18th June and for supplying references.

The Brothers John and Obadiah Westwood belonged to the same family as my own but I am afraid we have no records of their work. At this Office is an excellent portrait of John painted by Benjamin Wilson.

I am interested to hear of their supplying coins to the United States. Did not Matthew Boulton provide copper blanks for the for the first U.S. coinage?

Dr. Hetherington lives at 21, Mimosa Close, Birmingham 29. You will be interested to hear that a new life of Boulton is in course of preparation by Eric Robinson, Lecturer at Manchester University. Over the past 20 years he has intensively studied our records.

You will no doubt have seen the recent book on the Lunar Society written by Scholefield formerly of Harvard.

I look forward to seeing you here during July.

Yours sincerely,

A H Westwood

(A.H. Westwood).
Assay Master.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400, Washington Avenue,
P.O. Box No.14020.
St. Louis.
U.S.A.

Established 1872

A. H. BALDWIN & SONS, LTD.

DIRECTORS A. H. F. BALDWIN W. V. R. BALDWIN D. D. MITCHELL A. BALDWIN

Numismatists

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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(Ground Floor)
Tel. TRAfalgar 2455 (Unchanged) LONDON, W.C.2.

Telephone TRAFALGAR 2455
Telegrams NUMISMOS RAND LONDON

Ref. AB/JCV

9th July, 1964

Mr. E. P. Newman,
c/o Albany Hotel,
BIRMINGHAM.

Dear Eric,

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th June written before you left home. No doubt by now you are well on your way west from London Airport and I hope the traffic is not too much of a problem for you.

You obviously know just where to see the Boulton papers and so I have nothing more to say about that. Your suggestion that the present head of the Assay Office is named Westwood has been confirmed for me by someone closely connected there. It may interest you to know also that he is the son of his father who held the office before him. This should take the Westwood family quite a long way back. It seems almost certain that they must be related to Obadiah but in any case surely they will have information for you.

The young lady, who has taken Mr. Dolley's place at the British Museum, was at Birmingham Museum for a few years and I have talked to her about your problems. She does not seem to have much information except that she knows there is nothing about Obadiah Westwood to be found in the numismatic section but she suggests that you should go along to the Museum and contact a Miss Butler, who is head of the Art Department; apparently she is as likely as anyone to be able to help you.

It was extremely nice of you to suggest the use of your camping car but unfortunately it would be impossible to arrange for a number of reasons.

Yours sincerely,

Albert

THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

July 10th

Mr. Eric Newman.

Dear Mr. Newman,
Thank you for your letter. I am afraid that you have made a mistake in thinking that I have done any research on Matthew Boulton. I have not made any, although I recently read a paper on Boulton to the London Coin Club.
In coming to Birmingham, you have , I think come to the right place for information. You should consult the Boulton and Watt Collection in the Birmingham Public Library.
As regards Copper Coinage, the chief authority on Boulton is Mr. C. Wilson Peck, the President of this Society. I am writing to Mr. Peck asking that if he knows of any special sources of information that you could consult, he will let you know.
As you are doing serious numismatic research within our range, you might like to consider joining the Society. We have plenty of members in the United States, but I should like to see more American Members who are active Numismatic students.
Any time that you would like to know more about the Society, please let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

Wilfrid Slayter

Wilfrid Slayter.
Hon. Sceretary.

Answered 20 July 1964

1003 Riverside Drive
Logansport, Indiana
July 17, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman
c/o P.O. Box 14,020
St. Louis, Missouri (63178)

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am sorry that I was unable to come by but I did not arrive at my cousin's house in Aransas Pass (Near Corpus Christi), Texas, until late on the 27th of June. To have arrived at your house on the 30th would have meant that I would have had only one full day (the 28th) looking up relatives and seeing the country. As it was, I left on the second of July without seeing everyone.

To make up for this, I will hope to meet you when I am at the ANA meeting in Cleveland on the 20th and 21st of August - please let me know if you will be there on those days.

I do not know anything about the Messrs. Walkins and Ketland mentioned in the Digges letters nor do I know anything more about the 1792 pieces you ask about. What little I do know outside of previously known information was in the article; the information on Digges' personal life was derived from a study in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History.

I am presently working on an article(to be submitted to Seaby's) on Boulton's connection with the U.S. Mint after 1794, principally in connection with the prepared copper planchets. I also intend to present Boulton's connection with the mint ~~ex~~ in my articles for the Scrapbook; the latter will be very detailed, of course, and will be interwoven into the 'yearly' discussions similar to what has already appeared.

If you will note your Scrapbooks since July, 1961, it will be found that I am following a distinct pattern (although the editor has printed some of them out of the order I wrote them) in which I am covering the early mint, year by year, starting with 1792. I am now working on the 14th article to cover this period, on the copper coinage of 1795. There will be at most one more on 1795 and then I will begin with 1796, probably the silver.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Sincerely yours

Robert W. Julian



225

Eric P. Newman Esq.,
Brown's Hotel,
Dover St.
London, W.1.

Answered July 31, 1964

21 DYOTT ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, 13. SOUTH 1865

27. VII. 64

Dear Mr Rowan,

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad that your visit to Birmingham was a fruitful one.

Eric Robinson is carrying a good deal of work on Bowdon whose biography he has been engaged on for some years. As far as I know E.R. is still with the University of Manchester but as you know, it is vacation time now. His private address is:

30 Oxford Rd.,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire.

I hope that you will find him helpful.

Are you leaving England at the end of the month? Should you still be here and

LITTLE BARRINGTON, NR. BURFORD, OXON.

neighbourhood of Burford, we shall be at our cottage there quite early at Little Barrington until the morning of Wednesday Aug 5th. We should be very pleased to have you and your wife a typical mid-eighteenth-century, small stone cottage (I hope) furnished with beautiful modern conveniences! The village or rather hamlet is pleasantly grouped round a large green and is situated on the higher road on the south side.

We will send the papers you inquire for with one or two extra letters I have since come across.

This week the Bodleian Reference Library passed us an enquiry from a "Mr Turner of the Treasury Solicitor" who is also asking for information regarding the Armenian Fund. I wonder if you are in touch with him?

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Hartley

Copy

BROWN'S HOTEL,
LONDON, W.1.
(DOVER ST & ALBEMARLE ST)

TELEGRAMS "BROWNOTEL" LONDON-W.1.
TELEPHONE Nº HYDE PARK 6020.

30 July 1964

Dear Mr. Westwood:

My wife and I very much appreciated your 24 carat gold hospitality and thank you for being so nice to us at a time you were so busy. It was a delightful evening for us.

We listened to BBC and heard your announcement as to the increase in business of your constituency and therefore knew the annual meeting fared well. We did not see any television but assume you acted your part with perfection.

I will send you a copy of the letter referring to Obadiah as soon as I return to America as I must correct the errors in the text caused by unreadability and which were clarified by the information I looked up in Birmingham. I hope you find some further data on Obadiah in your family papers.

Evelyn + I expected but were nevertheless shocked by the fineness of her earrings and I am going to take the matter up at home with the proper authorities, We are so strict on most things that I am sure this shortage in gold content is deliberate. I will keep you advised.

At Scotland Yard I understand that you are cooperating in connection with the false sovereigns and this afternoon I will visit the Royal Mint to see some false dies [redacted] and talk about this forgery problem as it affects old coins as well as currently used sovereigns.

August 6, 1964

Mr. A. H. Westwood
Assay Office
New Hall Street
Birmingham, England

Dear Mr. Westwood:

On my return home I photocopied the publication in which the Digges letter was contained and you will note that a cousin of Obidiah Westwood employed John Gregory Hancock to make coinage which he hoped to sell to the United States. He sent specimens to all our officials and,apparently,was working through Ketland and Walker, who were merchants and exporters. Apparently the reason for the secrecy was that Matthew Boulton wanted to get the business and so did Westwood. Because we determined to make the coins in our country neither party was successful.

Evelyn and I returned home after a delightful vacation and again wish to thank you for the cooperation which you gave me in research, the pleasant evening we had with you and your wife, and the opportunity of getting to know you.

I immediately called a gold refiner, in St. Louis, and asked him what their practice was. He said that he adhered strictly to the Federal law and when 14K gold is ordered he prepared 13½K gold. When 10K is ordered he prepared 9½K gold. In other words, the half karat tolerance regulations are complied with to benefit the seller. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I am writing to the department store which sold my wife her earrings.

We were very pleased to visit Barker Brothers and the Evans Company and between the two of them they seem to have all of the Boulton metal working tools.

I must again express to you how friendly and helpful Mrs.Harley was and will look forward to writing on the items that I learned while on my recent visit.

I do not know if we told you that Dr. Hedderington told us that he was the reincarnation of the Bishop of Cork and was the product of eight marriages of first cousins.

Thank you, again, for your wholehearted cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

August 6, 1964

Mr. Robert W. Julian
1003 Riverside Drive
Logansport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Julian:

I look forward to seeing you at the A.N.A.Convention. I will arrive about noon on the 20th and will remain for a few days.

I was glad to see your new article in the Scrapbook, when I returned from my vacation, in England. I was particularly interested in researching the Digges letter, in Birmingham, and getting the names correct. I believe I have now been able to do so and may write a little article straightening out the 1792 coinage to tie it into the 1791 coinage and to use the correct names of those who made it. I consider your finding of the Digges letter in the archives a major find.

The Boulton papers, in the Assay Office, in Birmingham, were examined by me to a great extent,and there is an enormous file on the negotiations with the United States Mint. Likewise, Raymond Williamson has done an enormous amount of work in this field,and at the present I have his microfilm and card notes. I presume you are working almost entirely from the papers in the American Archives.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

35 THE GREEN
CASTLE BROMWICH
Telephone:
CASTLE BROMWICH 3924

9 Jan 65

Dear Shewring

Herewith family tree compiled from data supplied by a relative who has traced it back to 1460 but I will spare you the earlier times.

The John-Obadiah branch is extinct.

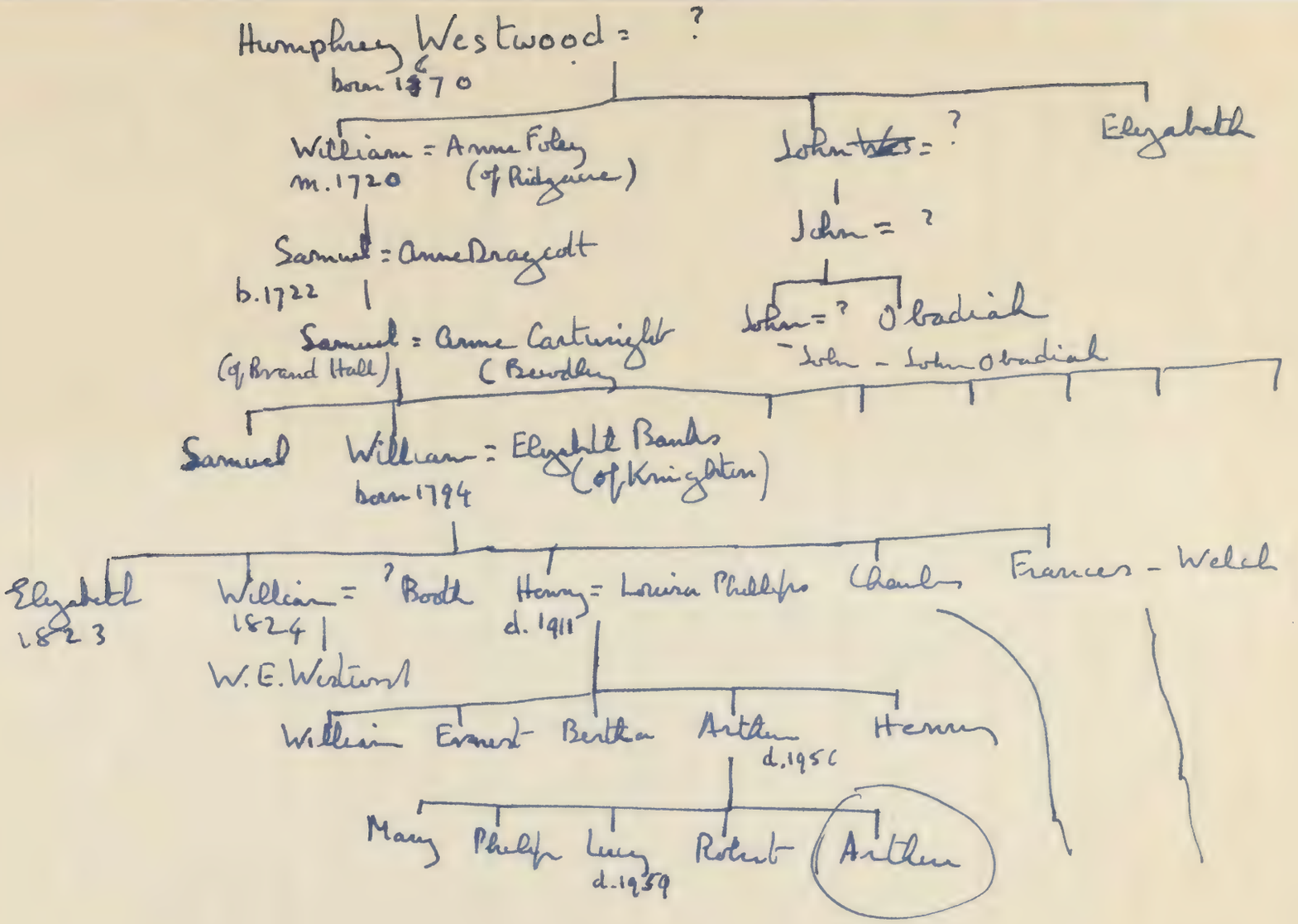
I can almost say that our family is so ancient that its last illustrious member died at the battle of Agincourt.

I have put a halo round the name of the most deserving living member.

With best wishes

Yours

David Smith


Humphrey Westwood = ?
born 1670
William = Anne Foley
m. 1720 (of Ridgeacre)
John = ?
Elizabeth
Samuel = Anne Draycott
b. 1722
John = ?
Samuel = Anne Cartwright
(of Brand Hall) (Bewdley
John = ? Obadiah
John - John Obadiah
Samuel
William = Elizabeth Banks
born 1794 (of Knighton)
Elizabeth
1823
William = ? Booth
1824
W. E. Westwood
Henry = Louisa Phillips
d. 1911
Charles
Frances - Welch
William
Ernest
Bertha
Arthur
d. 1950
Henry
Mary
Phillips
Lucy
d. 1959
Robert
Arthur

AIR MAIL



BIRMINGHAM

Mrs E. P. Shelburne

6450 Cecil Avenue

St. Louis

Missouri

U.S.A.



7 Sept 64

Dear Sherman

Thank you for your letter. I had been waiting to hear that you had received the first lot of copies before sending any more. I am just leaving for England but will write again on my return in a few days.

Kind regards to your wife from both of us. We hope all the bits & pieces she bought over here are selling like hot cakes.

Yours ever

Harold Wortman

Monday, July 20, 1964

Dear Mr.Newman,

Today you received a letter from Mr. Leslie A.Elam, Publications, The American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 155th Street, New York, 10032 reading as follows:

"Museum Notes XI is about to go to press. Will you, at this time, indicate the number, if any, of reprints that you require of your article 'The James II 1/24th Real For the American Plantations'. Contributors receive twenty-five reprints automatically. Costs for additional reprints of your article would be $.49 per reprint.

"I would appreciate an answer at your earliest convenience as we must instruct the printer."

You may want to reply from your end since it seems to require a prompt answer.

- - - - -

Mr. Budde, of the National Park Service, phoned on 7/13 and said they had received an additional shipment of 500 bronze medallions and also 300 silver medallions. He said the silver ones are very nice and that they had put some aside for you. He said they sold 250 of the original shipment of bronze medallions up until that date.

-- - - - - -

The last paragraph of a letter from Don Taxay reads:

"By the way I came across an article in a 1786 New Haven magazine stating that the Nova coppers were struck in Greenwich, England to the amount of 40,000 pieces. Do you have this clipping?"

It was a short letter - thanking you for the reprint of Nature Printing.

- - - - - - -

You received a letter on July 14, although it is dated June 12 from J.W.Cockburn Depute City Librarian, Edinburgh Corporation, Central Public Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh 1 reading:

"With reference to your enquiry of 3rd June, I write to inform you that the paragraph referring to the discovery of the halfpennies at Greenock appears in The Edinburgh Evening Courant (March 11th,1786). With the exception of the date,your citation is quite correct."

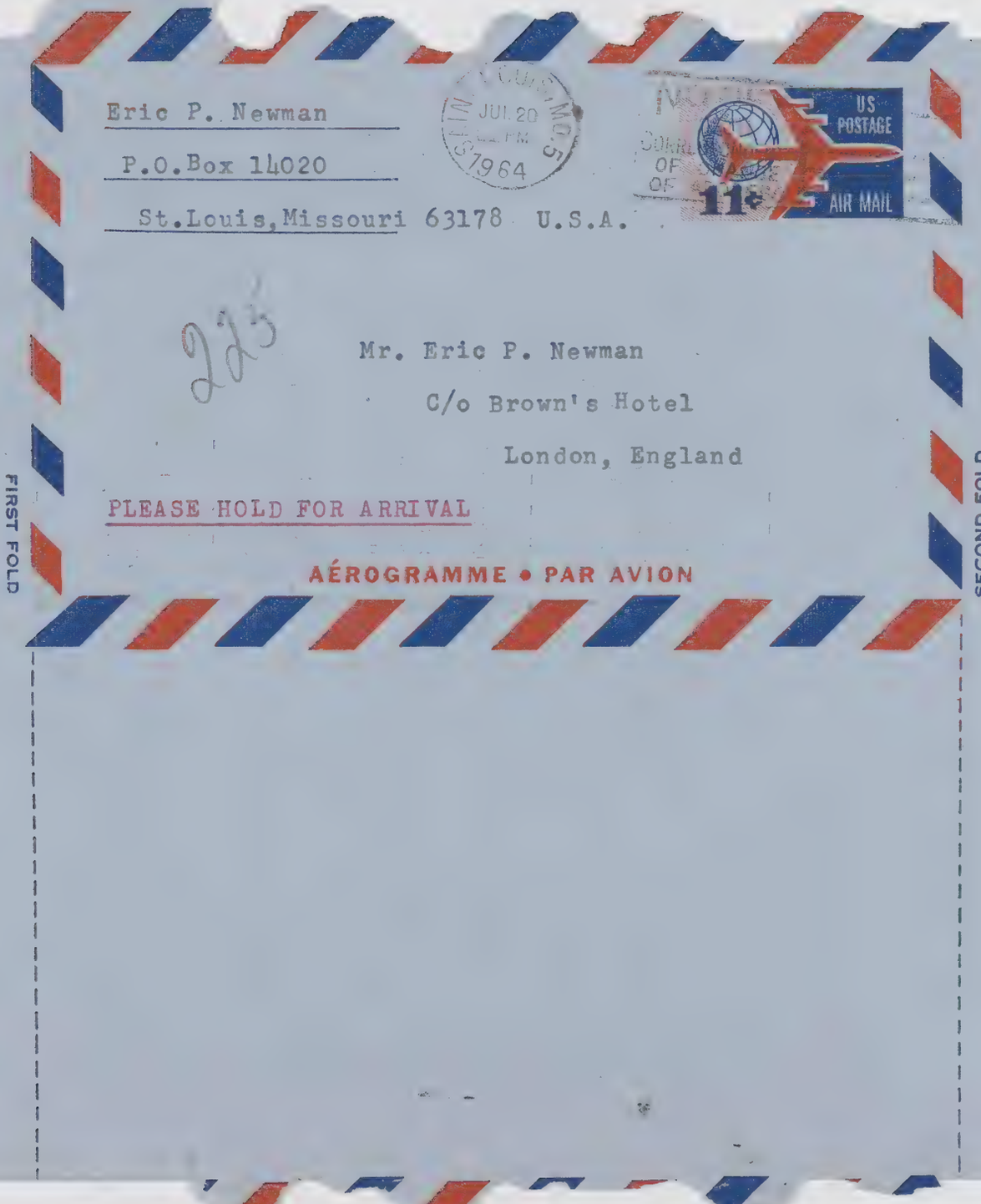
- - - - - - -

Hope your expedition is a tremendous success for both of you.

Sincerely,

Ann Bennett

Mr.Harry is in New York today and I heard that he sails on the 23rd.



Eric P. Newman
P.O.Box 14020
St.Louis,Missouri 63178 U.S.A.

JUL 20 PM 1964

US POSTAGE 11¢ AIR MAIL

223

Mr. Eric P. Newman
C/o Brown's Hotel
London, England

PLEASE HOLD FOR ARRIVAL

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

FORM #105

MEMORANDUM

March 12, 1965

TO Mr.Don Taxay

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Don:

At your convenience you were going to send me the text of the Diggs which could not be read by Robert Julian and which was omitted in the publication of those letters by Seaby.

EPN/atb

Letter from T.J to William Short Apr. 25, 1791
encloses copy Paris
letter Grand to T.J (no date)

These are the same conditions on which he contracted with Mr Boulton which will determine in September next when he shall be at liberty again to engage.

1000 louis net for one year in U.S. plus expenses & well tuned mint.

11/24/1791 TJ to Short

~~Requested~~ the designs & engrave for U.S ~~H~~ coinage as requested by Droz ~~cannot be for~~ are not determined as yet.

(Shows ~~he~~ Droz was working on it)

1/5/92 TJ to Short

Want till Mint bill passes before working on an assayer

6/14/92 T.J to Pinckney (~~replaced~~ ~~substituted~~ by Short in France)

Droz declined. Mint law passed. Droz will make 2 screw presses. He

"We have reason to believe he was drawn off by the English East India Company and that he is now at work for them in England. Mr Boulton had also made a proposition to come for us in England which was declined.

If Droz be in England I think he will feel himself under some obligation to aid you in procuring presses. How far Boulton will do it seems uncertain.

Marshall letter

Marshall : Diplomatic and Consular Instructions, Dept of State 1791 - 1801 p 28 Ball

I'M MY CUZ-IN-LAW
as it might be sung by Linda or Peter

(Tune: "I'm My Own Grandpa")

Just about four years ago - when Hope was twenty-two
She was married to her Julian - who had travelled East to woo.
Hope had a cousin Peter - who was a Harvard square
And Julian had a peppy niece - kept under Bryn Mawr's care.

I'm my Cuz-in-law
I'm my Cuz-in-law
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both were at Hope's wedding - but considered not each other.
We acted just as cooly as - a sister and a brother,
But in due course we met again - and then the fun began -
Incest couldn't stop the love - of Newman-Solomon.

I'm my Cuz-in-law
I'm my Cuz-in-law
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both have Uncle Irvings and Auntie Esthers, too
We find there are three Sidneys - two Janes we have for you.
And Who is Charlie Edison? - he is three different men,
They're all our second cousins - though we know not how or when.

I'm my Cuz-in-law
I'm my Cuz-in-law
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We just have given wedding vows - at Westwood Country Club
And all of those who witnessed it - can see that there's a rub
There are so many relatives - the family tree's so fat,
There still is some confusion - as to whom we were begat.

I'm my Cuz-in-law
I'm my Cuz-in-law
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

So Stop and Shop at Baker's - across from A & S
And send your kids to Brandeis - and avoid a family mess
But when your offspring marry - be sure their choice is free
And pluck some little cherub - from another family tree.

I'm my Cuz-in-law
I'm my Cuz-in-law
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

October 20, 1963

4/20/93 TJ to Governeur Morris

Pickering advises Droz is unhappy in his employment in Paris. Try to get him.

4/20/93 TJ to Pickering

Get Droz to decide now. Get copper from Sweden

6/4/93 TJ to Pickering

Albion Cox is not desirable

Mr Holloway is also undesirable

the box from Diggs has not come.

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as it might be sung by Linda or Peter

(Tune: "I'm My Own Grandpa")

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October 20, 1963

Williamson
microfilm 1964

Letter to Samuel Bayard from Matthew Boulton
Feb 25, 1796 Soho, Burmingham

"I have on a former occasion sent specimens of my coin book to General Washington and likewise to Mr. Rittenhouse, the Master of the Mint in Philadelphia & I now think it would be better for many reasons I could give to send the pieces ready Coined and quite finished at 140 £ a ton or 1/3 per lb for everything."

June 20, 1792
R. Mather (Manchester) to M. Boulton Soho

I wish to be possessed of more ability to render you those services your confidence deserves. As to integrity if this be wanting it is my fault. I can have no doubt that you do and will excel, and that the first Commissions in Amer— will be yours.

I am [redacted] unfeignedly
Sir Your mo obed hble Servt
Ralph Mather

Purdue U
Birmingham

March 20, 1801 Ralph Mather (Ironsend (London)) to Matthew Boulton (Soho)

" I dare say you'll recollect giving me some of your excellent coined halfpence to present Mr Washington Jefferson etc. On my arrival in Phil Nov 1792 my father-in-law, an old settler, german interpreter, and before the War Magistrate there, introduced me to the Speaker. He to Mr. Jefferson and much conversation passed as to Coin, coinage, etc. he showing the fabrique to Mr Washington who thought well of the die, impression and cut of the pieces.

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as it might be sung by Linda or Peter

(Tune: "I'm My Own Grandpa")

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October 20, 1963

Pearson and Rollason

The Birmingham Directory (Birmingham 1777)

Westwood, John, Button-maker, 21 Great Charles-street
Westwood, Obadiah, Dye-sinker and Engraver, ditto
Westwood, John, Broker, 2, New-meeting-street
Ketland, Thomas, Gun-maker, Catherine St (Headington says Ashwell's / Weaman Row but it is near corner of Bell.

Walker, Alexander, Merchant, 6, Catharine-street
(This is only 1 block away from Ketland)

Myles Swinney
Swinney's Birmingham Directory [illegible] 1775-6 (Birmingham 1776)

No Alexander Walker, No Hancock, [illegible]
Walker, William, Factor, Catharine street
Westwood, John and Obadiah, Dye-sinkers, and Coffin-plate-furniture makers, 37, New Hall street
Ketland, Thos. Gun and Pistol-maker, 7, Litchfield street,

Pearson and Rollason The Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Bilston, and Willenhall Directory (Birmingham 1780)

Westwood, John Buttonmaker, 21 Great Charles Street
Westwood, Obadiah, dye sinker and engraver, ditto
Walker, Alexander merchant, 6 Catharine street
Walker, William, ditto, 11, ditto
Same as above but 1781 issue
Same entries

Pye's Birmingham Directory for the year 1791 (Birmingham 1790)

" Walker, William, and Alexander, and Co. Merchants, Sand street
(There is no Walkins, - there is a Thomas Watkins, Buckle-Maker, Horse-day-street)
Westwood, Obadiah, Manufacturer of Buttons, also the new-invented Coffin Furniture, Borders for Rooms, Picture-frames etc Great Charles street
Westwood John, Roller of Metal, Great Charles street
Hancock, John Gregory, Artist, Snowhill
Hancock, Robert, Engraver, Moat row (This is the man who engraved copper plate for designs on Worcester China & is well known
(No Droz or Duggs) Boulton and Watt, Engineers, Soho
Ketland and Walkers, Gun-makers, Boulton, Matthew, Merchant, Soho
Jordan, John Victualler, Weaman street Boulton, Matthew, Manufacturer of Plated Ware, also Plate, one Roller in general (This is no Walkers plural so it is 2 people with name Walker)
(Under "Merchants and Factors" is listed "Walker, W. and A."

Try to buy Lutwyches farthing token

Pye's Birmingham Directory for the Year 1797 (Birmingham Dec 1796)
(no directory betw 1791 + 1797)

Hancock, John Gregory Artist, Snowhill
Ketland and Walkers, Gun-makers, Weaman row
Ketland, Cotterill, and Son, Merchants, Square
Westwood, Obadiah, Manufacturer of Coffin Furniture, Picture Frames etc, Great Charles street
Walker, William and Alexander, Foreign Merchants, Sand street
Walker, William and Alexander, Merchants, Russel street

Charles Pye, the Birmingham Directory for the Year 1788 (Birmingham, 1787)
Category "Die-Sinkers, Engravers, and Chasers"
Hancock, J. G.
Wyon, George
(Westwood not listed there but under articles in metal)
Westwood, Obadiah, Button maker, also the new invented Coffin Furniture, Borders for Rooms, Picture Frames, and Ornaments for Chimney Pieces, No. 20, Great Charles street.

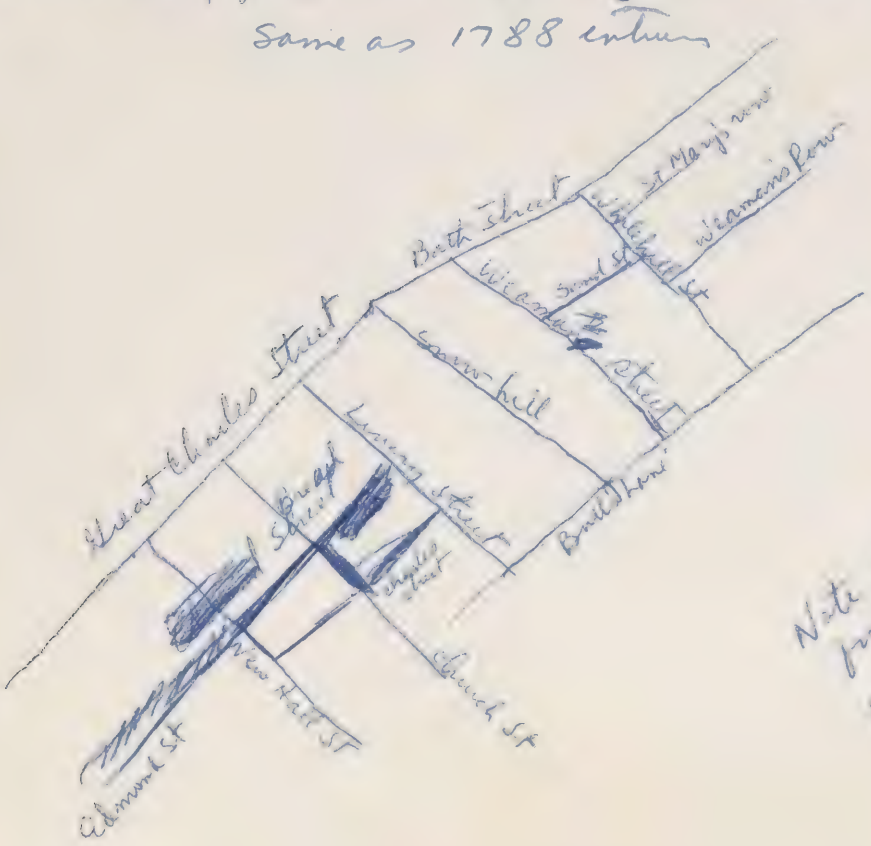
Walker, William and Alexander Merchants Sand str.
Walker, William, No. 19, Great Charles street
Walker, Alexander, Sand street
Hancock, John Gregory, Artist, No. 45, Edmund Street
Ketland and Walkers, Gun-makers Weaman's row

Charles Pye the Birmingham Directory for the year 1787 corrected to the First of August (Birmingham Aug 1787)

Same as 1788 entries

Charles Pye
A New Directory for the Town of Birmingham (Birmingham 1785) (has city map)

Same as 1788 entries



Birmingham Sept 1864

Catalogue of Provincial & other Coins which will be sold by Auction by Mr King, Jr. London Sept 17, 1801

this was the Thomas Welch collection of Birmingham
"unquestionably the completest ever formed"

10 shillings { Lot #1 "Six American pieces, obv. Washington's head; all different and some of them rare"
#2 "8 other American pieces" ← I assume not with Westwood

Provincial Copper Coins or Tokens issued between the Years 1787 and 1796 Engraved by Charles Pye of Birmingham (London 1795)

the preface says between 1787 and 1794 but the title page contradicts (this the screwy date of publication) ed is dated Sept 1, 1795

10 illustrations on a page 36 plates

Contains { Clark & Harris Token with Washington
Franklin Press Token

list of die makers following index of coins
(none by Westwood)

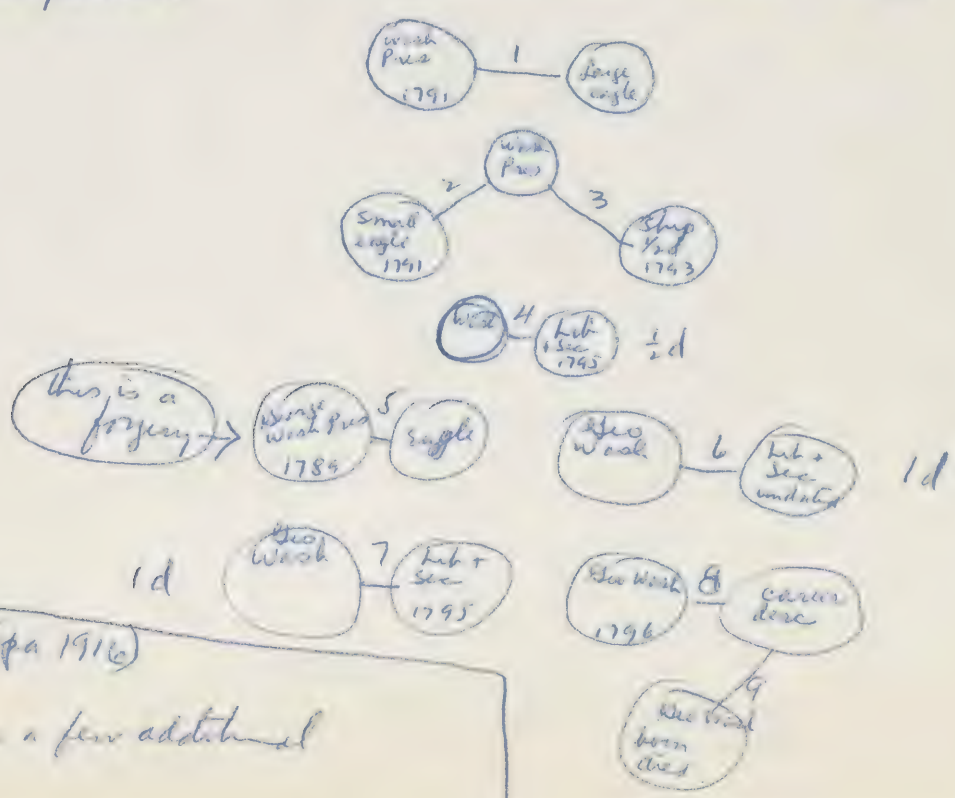
Provincial Coins & Tokens issued from the Year 1787 to the Year 1801 Engraved by Charles Pye (London 1801)

list of die sinkers & mfgs
2 page Advertisement dated Sept 4, 801
18 pages of text
52 plates in sequence all differ from above 1795 issue

Second edition

A Correct and Complete Representation of All the Provincial Copper Coins, Tokens of Trade and Cards of Address on Copper which were circulated as such between the Years 1787 and 1801
Second Edition London no date 1819

This has much interlineation, paste ins etc. It has a sheet on Washington coins as follows



Third edition (Leamington Spa 1916)
edited by Arthur Watkins
includes some plates & a few additional notes.

1 Nat Archives RC

Apr 10, 1793

T. Pinckney to Secy of State T. J.

"I send herewith a box of corns and some letters received from Mr Diggs of Virginia now at Birmingham"

TJ to Thomas Pinckney
June 4, 1793 "the box of corns which you mention to have forwarded from Mr Diggs has not come to hand

P.S. June 5 "Your letter of April 15 is this moment received as also the box of Medals"

Mitchell - Boulton correspondence
Assay Office Birmingham

M to B	B to M	
5/6/88	11/25/89	Jefferson report 4/14/90
10/9/89	5/4/90	
10/10/89	11/5/9v	
3/17/90		
4/25/90		
5/10/90		
5/vv/90		
7/20/90		
10/8/90		
4/4/9v		

A. Hamilton Westwood

35 The Green

Birmingham

England

Golden Square (London)
Dec 1, 1790

David Hartley to
Thomas Jefferson

Tries to show Boulton only would do copper, copper is not coin gold + silver are — machinery could be bought later — workmen trained

Excellent logic + interesting.
Just after visit with Boulton
Copy sent to Boulton

(Obtain copy)

To David Rittenhouse
Phila

"Mr Boulton presents his
Compliments to Mr. Rittenhouse and
takes the liberty of sending him by his
friend Mr. Cooper, a small set
of medals of his Manufactory, which
he begs his acceptance of as a token
of his respect"

Soho near Birmingham

28th June 1794 Matthew Boulton

Boulton in 1790
Need to contact &
make copper coin
@ 14 pence per lb. in 1790

Miss Louise Jane Dumler

All editions of Pye show
Plate 51
No 10
Washington 1793 Ship ½d made by Westwood.

Still necessary to check

Spence's (London 1795) Com Collectors Company

Ruding 1817 edition

Brichalls' Desc List of Prov. Copper Coins

Golden Square Dec^r 1 1790

Dear Sir

I have lately had some conversation with Mr Boulton of Soho near Birmingham relative to a proposed new coinage of the copper money of this country for which he is at present in negotiation with the British Ministry. Upon this occasion he has shewn to me from the Charles-town Gazette of April 14. 1790 the report which you have presented to Congress upon a similar point in your States by which I find that he or his friend Mr Mitchell has had a similar Negotiation with you. Mr Boulton is a very excellent Mechanic & has many excellent Artists in his employ & we do not doubt execute such an Undertaking to his own honour & to the satisfaction of your Country. The same Apparatus may serve in the first Instance for both Countries. It has cost a very large sum of Money to Mr Boulton. I conceive that his views & yours are not at all inconsistant, but perfectly coincident.

By the first Part of your Report you approve of Mr Boulton as the Undertaker. But you object to a foreign dependance for the supply of your Coinage. This Objection seems for the Reasons assigned to be very forcible & decisive. The right of sovereignty in Coinage is most essential in Gold & Silver. But it is not so essential in Copper. Copper is not esteemed in this Country as coin. It is only esteemed as a convenient merchandize of Exchange. Several companies in this Country coin for their Profits. Profit in Copper as pence & half pence & we receive them in the intercourse of Payments. I understand that Mr Boulton's Proposition to you is upon

similar Ground to this. He proposes as a Manufac-
turer & Merchant to supply your Country on this first
Instance with your Subalterne Copper money, but
he has not the most distant view that the Sovereign
Mint for Gold & Silver in your States should be estab-
lished at his Soho. He proposes merely on this first
Instance that he should supply you with the mercha-
dise of the Copper Money which you may want for
immediate use & that he should execute this by means
of the Apparatus which he has provided for such purposes
in this Country after that he proposes to transfer all
this Apparatus to your Country if you chuse to become
purchasers & in the meantime in the course of the
proposed Coinage for you he will be very ready
to instruct any workman from the united States who
shall be sent him by public Authority, in the arts &
use of his Instruments, so that even your first copper Coinage
may be executed by the handicraft of your own
countrymen. His Mint is indeed admirably improv-
ed in all the most essential points, & upon the
completion of the first Coinage & necessary Instructions
will be transplanted for ever after for the adoption
& use of the Sovereign Power of your Country.

Mr Boulton will transmit this proposal
specifically by the next mail subsequent to the date
of this Letter wch I have taken the Liberty of addressing
to you because I think it a point of justice to be
done to an eminent Manufacturer as & much
more so in consideration of his universal & approved
Character for liberality & honour in all his
mercantile transactions. I shall only add to this
one personal motive for myself as to take this
Opportunity whenever I shall offer myself of renew-

to your recollection the name & memory of an old & faithful fellow labourer with yourself in the common cause of peace & friendship between our two countries

I am Sir
with the greatest regard
D Hartley

P.S. Mr Boulton informs me that he is now making specimens of guineas by the approbation of Government which have the following properties viz

1st They are equally expressive of the device with common guineas.

2 Altho the head is in bas relief yet it does not rise above the general surface of the piece & there are no prominent parts nor roughnesses, because the letters, Arms & inscriptions are sunk (as in) & resemble engraving yet they are of a beautiful polish on the edges & on both sides.

3 The coins are perfectly round & equal diameter so that when 20 of them are heaped upon one another they resemble a polished solid cylinder of Gold. Thus they will be less subject to loss of weight in common wear & tear & perfectly being of one diameter & thickness they may be easily distinguished from base or diminished guineas by means of a simple Gage contrived for that purpose & may be carried in the pocket with as little inconvenience as a half crown piece. The polish is curious & not produced by the twist of the Parisian Press which is found by experience to deprave the die of its sharpness & spirit by the striking of a few pounds weight of the coin altho it will strike specimens very beautifully — —

a Copy of Mr D. Hartleys
Letter to his Excellency Th
Jefferson Esqr Secretary
of State to the Congress of
America

Decr 1796

a Copy of Mr D. Hartleys
Letter to his Excellency T.
Jefferson Esqr Secretary
of State to the Congress of
America

Decr 1790

Matthew Boulton Esq^r New York nov. 9. 1793

Sir

Permit me to introduce you to the bearer of this Mr Talbot (partner of Allum & Lee) of this City, being a gentleman with whom you'll be well satisfied. As their trade is chiefly for the town they will be able to do good & solid business & also to inform you whether it would be worth your while to form connexions here.
As this trade is forming into permanency and but few in your way ever fail you may do good & profitable business if you will. I have been favoured with no letters from you, tho' I have carefully recommended your friends to several good hands., I wrote you often. - - - - - - - - -
Having now obtained some degree of establishment on this Continent, I have the best reason to suppose that the confidence in me will never be violated, believing that prudence has gone thus far in the measure of my conduct —

I am Sir your obid! Servant

Ralph Mather

PS. It is not understood that I am guarantee for any purchases the above house shall make —

Ralph Walker

New York 9 Nov.r 1793



London 4th April 1795.

Sir,

I have the honor of sending to you herewith Extracts from the Laws of the United States of America relating to their Mint which you expressed a Desire to have. I likewise inclose a Paper containing a Drawing with a Description of the Medal in the Charleston College, for which you were so obliging as to say you would make the Dye - you will oblige me by informing me what will be the lowest Expence including a dozen Silver Medals to be struck before the Instrument is packed up. Your Workman may adopt the Drawing or not as you may think proper provided he follows the written

written description. I have written to America on the subject of your proposals for our voyage and remain with Respect.

I.

Sir

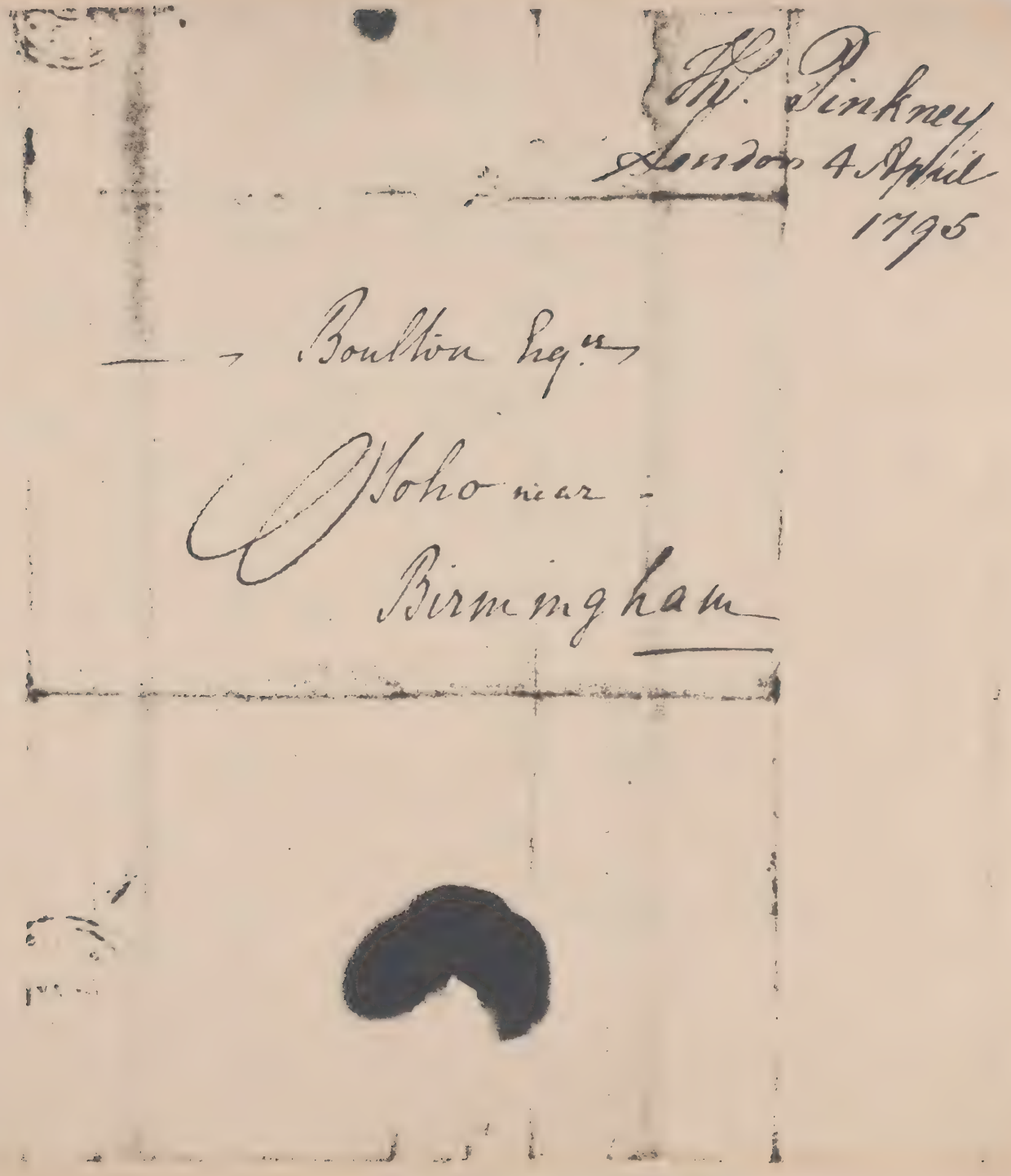
Your most obedient and most humble Servt.

Thomas Pitt Ellis

M.r Boulton.

Birmingham.

P.S. Upon examining the Extracts I find they are too bulky for a letter and shall therefore forward them as a Parcel by the Mail Coach on Monday.

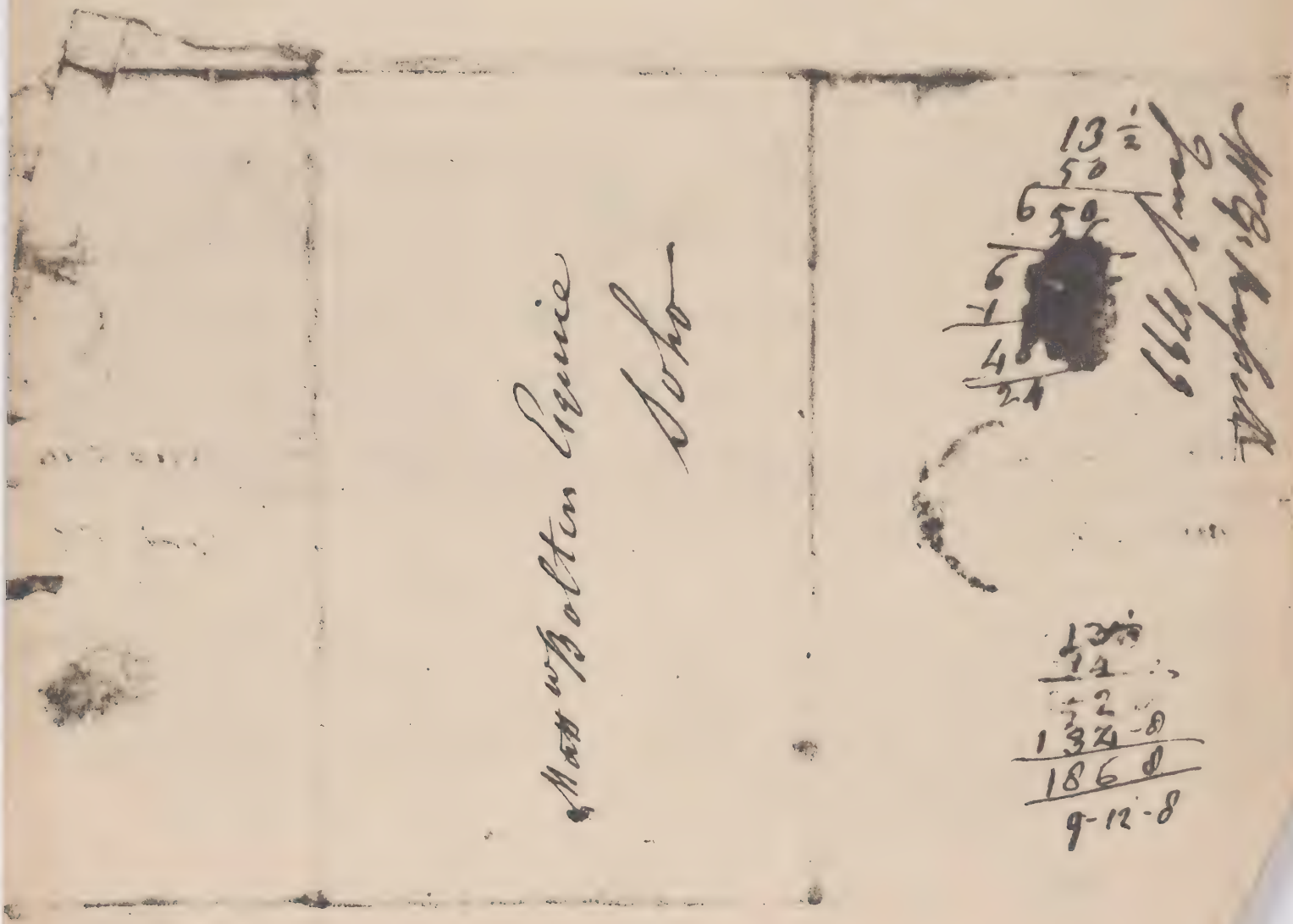

W. Pinkney
London 4 April
1795
Boulton Esqr
Soho near
Birmingham

Genl Russell presents respectful Compts to Mr Boltons & is particularly
directed by his Excellency to enquire the Cost of a Fire Engine
equal to the force of 10 Men Constant Work There
enquiries are made at the request of the Superintendant
of the Mint who wishes to be informed of Mr Boltons whether
he will permit him to depend upon a regular supply
of 40 to 50 Tons of Manchester to the time fixed — The last
gave Satisfaction Genl is likewise desired to
send a particular detail of the process of hardening Dies
Mr Boltons reply will be gratefully acknowledged, Genl
proposes to write by the Newyork Packet on Wednesday
next ——

Pavement Street
Friday 28 Dec 1798 —

75 — 1000 / 13 1/3
75
250
225
250

13 1/3
46
78
524
602
30.2 25
5
35



Mrs. Mayfield
Lunch 1911

13 1/2
50
650
6
1
40
24

Mrs. William Lewis
Utah

13 1/3
14
1/2
132-8
1868
9-12-8

No 230 Oxford Street

London July 18th 1791

Dear Sir

Inclosed I send you a print of Genl Washington. Which you may rely on being a likeness, and the only one that I ever yet seen published, it is also a proof Print,

Since my return to Town I have seen our King, and informed him of the conversation I had with you concerning the Mint, and your offer of supplying the United States with your Quantity for Coining, with which he seemed much pleased, so much so, that if it is agreable to you, I will do myself the pleasure of making you another visit, in order to make the necessary anangments to carry the plan into Effect, which I have no doubt will be to our mutual advantage,

I will thank you for a line as soon as convenient,

and am with respect your much obliged and Humble Servt

[illegible]

Mr Bolton

Soho near

Birmingham

London Sep 14. 1801

Sir

The american mint was first established, and so far as respects the machinery upon no very good plan at Philadelphia: Doubtless the President will propose that the coinage be executed at the City of Washington, the Seat of Government, and when the three principal Offices are now established — It has occurred to me to review the Project of procuring for this Purpose, the improved Mint, which no other Place can furnish so advantageously as Soho. In order therefore that I may in recommending this measure, be able to speak with accuracy respecting the Expence, I take the liberty of enquiring what was the Price of the Mint sent to Russia, or in other words what a simple one would cost us.

I likewise beg leave to request you to state the probable annual expence of keeping the machinery in repair, and whether from your idea of the skill of our workmen, they would be able to repair it.

With great Respect
I remain Sir your Ob. Sr.
Rufus King

Wm Boulton.

Rufus King

Sept 14 – 1801

Project for the erection
of a Mint at Washington
requiring the sum of
$2000
compleat estimate to be

Mr Kinsale

6
Pa

Mint of the United States
Philada Aug. 19. 1830

The machinery constructed by you for the purpose of coinage, respecting which I have your intimating communication of the 10th. Nov.r 1827, in reply to my request of the 31. Aug. preceding, has been a subject of frequent consideration since that period. The erection of a new Edifice, now in progress, for the accommodation of the Mint, will afford the opportunity of extending our power, with such modifications as may be found judicious in our machinery, and I have therefore to request that you will be pleased to state to me the cost at which you will construct the following machinery, to be delivered in proper packages, at Liverpool on board of one of our packets for this port.

1. Four coining presses, vertical, respectively, for coining dollars half dollars, quarter dollars and cents, with all the apparatus of every kind employed in giving motion thereto by the same power, except the Steam Engine and what pertains properly thereto, including the fly Wheel.

Please state under this head how much the cost of the above will be diminished, by limiting the number of presses to two.

The Steam Engine hitherto employed in this Mint is of a high pressure. We have under this limitation and it

is on that account preferable for us, and by reason of the less supply of water required, their performance is greatly simplified in the present instance; and it is not considered proper, under existing circumstances, to incur the expense of a change. An Engine of 10 horse power, it is thought, is fully adequate to the movement of the machinery contemplated, which is the grade of our present Engine now employed in the rolling room department, in place of which it is intended to introduce an Engine of higher power.

2 What will be the additional charge for four cutting out presses, with the apparatus required to propel them by the same Engine. Please state the diminution of expense under this head, if the number of cutting out presses should be limited to two. Please also to state whether there will be any difficulty in the requisite attachment of the cutting out presses should be placed one story higher than the coining presses, viz. in the apartment over D, of the plan hereafter to be described. Our Gearing Machine which precedes the operation of the rolling Mill, is in the apartment immediately over that of the rolling Mill, and the adjacent room, viz. that over D, would be much more convenient than any other for the operation of cutting out.

3 What will be the expense of two Rolling

machines complete, with the necessary apparatus for propelling them by the same power.

4 What will be the charge for one platinum annealing stove, and a set of annealing boxes.

Enclosed is a plan of that section of the fourteen new century for the Mint here, which will contain the furnaces and machinery referred to.

This plan represents the first floor, or principal story of this suite of apartments. Under this is a basement story, and above a second story, each corresponding with this in the arrangement and dimensions of the several rooms.

The basement story is 9½ feet high to the bottoms of the joists, and 10 feet 8 inches to the top of the first floor; the joists and floor being 1 foot 2 inches deep.

The first or principal story is 14 feet 4 inches high to the ceilings, and 15 feet 6 inches from the top of the first to that of the second floor; the ceiling joists and floor, being 1 foot 2 inches deep.

The second story is 12 feet 6 inches high to the ceilings.

The apartment A, intended for the carrying of
70 feet 6 inches long, and 30 feet 6 inches wide between
the walls are intended to be united in the basement
room below them, on which the pier floor will be supported
without resting immediately on the main walls of the building,
thus preventing any noise from being propagated through
it by the working of the pumps, if that could
would otherwise result.

It is proposed that only half of this apart-
ment shall be occupied by the arrangement of the
two, power pumps now in view. One hand pump
or more pumps may be introduced, and pumping commenced
under the immediate direction of Mr. Ericsson the chief known,
and some of the most delicate parts thereof by his own hand,
and which it is not intended immediately to dispense with,
will occupy the other half of the apartment.

The pump pumps may be arranged either in one
line, extending along the length of the apartment, as
at NO. 1. 2. 3. 4, or in two parallel lines, as at 1. 2. 5. 6
The latter seems to us preferable, but the difference is unim-
portant. In either case, symmetry of position, as well as con-
venience, would recommend that the arrangement should be
thus; it is finally determined, so as to leave a proper distance
from the walls, and space between the ranges for a free passage
[illegible] line of the room.

30 feet 6 inches long by 14 feet wide

The apartment B is intended for the Steam Engine and fly wheel, and such other machinery as it may be necessary to associate therewith in the same apartment. Of the fitness of this apartment for the object you will judge. It is hoped that no embarrassing difficulty will be found in this particular.

The Boiler of the Engine will occupy the basement room immediately under B, the axis of the boiler extending in the direction of the longest line of this room: or if more convenient it can be required in the other direction passing through an arch way in the wall separating this room from the basement room under A

Though it comports with our views that the Steam Engine and the apparatus requiring to be associated with it in the same room, should be so arranged as to be contained in the room B, yet, if it should be found necessary, a large portion of the passage or narrow apartment C viz that division of it contained within the dotted line, could be thrown into the room B by removing so much of the partition walls separating these apartments; and either of flues a, b, could be obliterated, or even both could be dispensed with, & a flue placed in another position. In a word of the requisite position of the fly wheel and its proper velocity, the screw, we shall find no difficulty in conforming thereto the arrangement of the boiler and Engine. I would

acuss

observe however, that the door of communication G, and carry
to it, are desirable to be retained, and that, therefore, if the flywheel
could be advantageously on the side H. H. it would in this respect
be convenient for our views.

In the second story the whole of the apparatus corresponding
to A & B, and if necessary to C, can be duplicated to such appa-
ratus as it may be requisite to introduce there, for the
purpose of communicating motion to the operating machinery.

The leaning pipes and apparatus connected in giving
motion thereto, are the chief object. The others, though desirable,
must depend on the adaptation of the means appropriated to
accomplish the main purpose, and leave a surplus applicable
to the procuring of some or all of the other machinery
mentioned.

In your letter of the 10th. Nov.r 1827, above referred
to, you mention the expediency of making some suitable
provision to ascertain a knowledge of the use of the machinery
during its construction, in order to superintend its erection
and give the necessary instruction for its use. This suggestion
appears important, and will command attention.

If your terms for the machinery proposed shall be
found such as I shall feel authorised to accede to, a definite
order will forthwith be forwarded. Please inform me how

soon after receiving such order, you would proceed with the execution of it, and how long would be required for its accomplishment. Please also to inform me, whether, in the event of our not finding it convenient to send a person as suggested, to acquire the requisite instruction in the use of the machinery, you could accompany the machinery with an artist fully competent to superintend its erection here, and its management for a few months until one of our artists should become familiar with it, and mention if you know the requisite compensation for his services

You are aware I believe that some correspondence has taken place with the agents of the Anglo Mexican mining company, respecting a part of this machinery. That correspondence has terminated some time since, without issuing in any contract. It is hoped that, on terms not less favorable than the price at which the part of this machinery constructed by you was tendered, you may be able to furnish the machinery we wish. The advantages of receiving such a combination of apparatus directly from you, constructed especially for this institution, and accommodated to our departments, with the benefit of your assistance as to its proper package and shipment, are regarded as considerations of real value, in determining the

perfection I feel pleasure in giving to a contract immediately with you for the object.

You will oblige me by an early communication in reply on the several points mentioned. The apartments delineated and described for the reception of the machinery contemplated, if is hoped will be found to possess the requisite attributes for the purpose, without involving any change in the form of your combinations which would impair either their ordinary symmetry or efficiency. If any modification of either of the apartments should be deemed desirable, please point it out, and I will state whether it will be practicable or not.

Referring to another letter of this date for other to this Date.

Respectfully

Your Obed. Svt.

Sam'l Moore

Matthew R. Boulton Esq.
Soho Manufactory
Near Birmingham

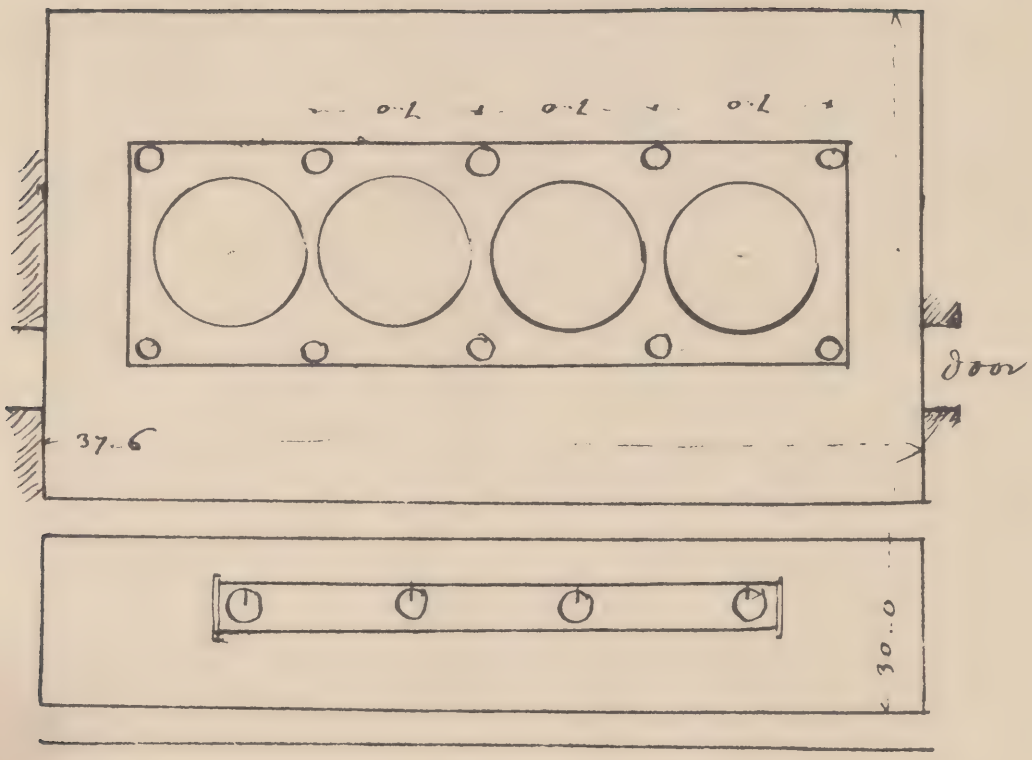
SHIP LETTER
LIVERPOOL

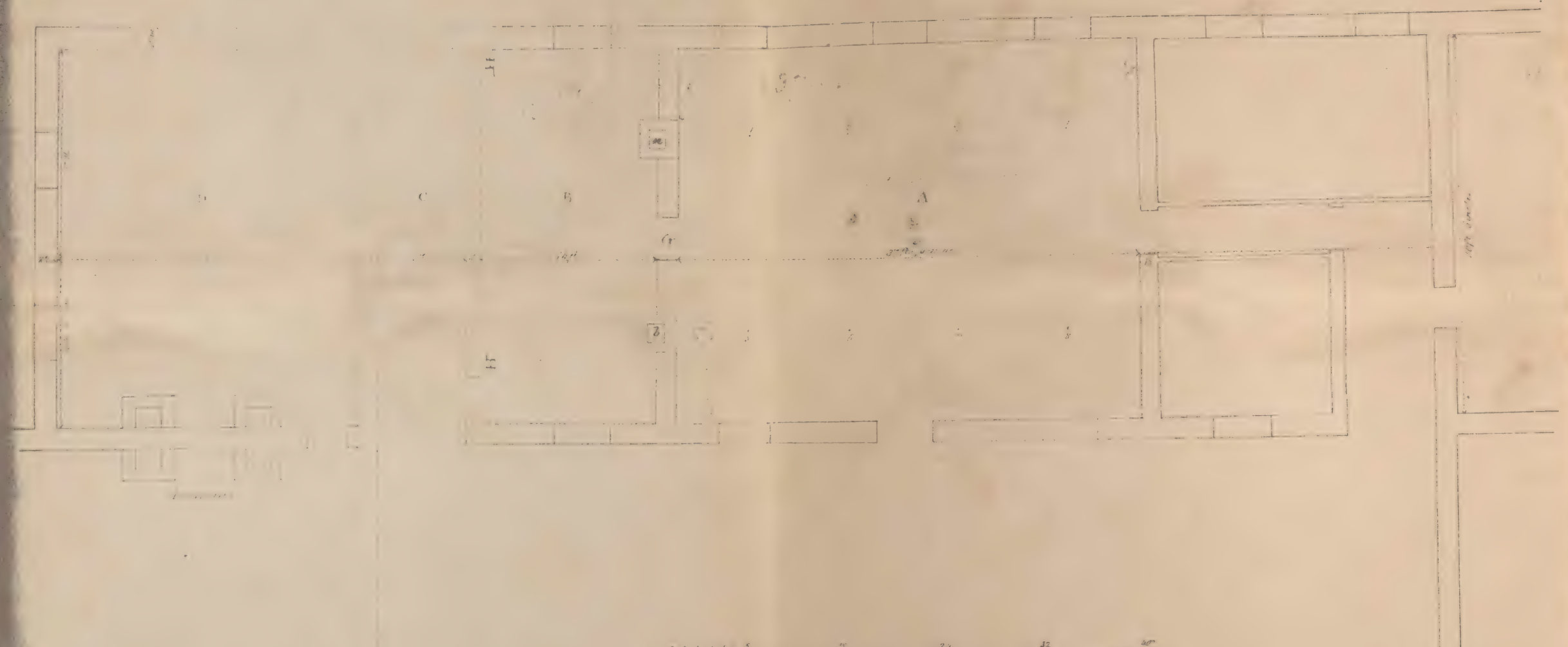
Sam[l] Moore
Augt 19th 1830

Duplicate of letter of
inquiries about Bolton
Apparatus

Matthew P. Boulton Esq.
Soho Manufactory
near Birmingham
England

New York
via Liverpool Packet


0·L
0·L
0·L
Door
37·6
30·0



Scale of 1/8 of an inch to the foot.

Philadelphia 10th of August 1830

The work of an ASSAY OFFICE

Assaying, marking and enforcing the law at the Birmingham Office



Hundreds of beds, and some have been used only once. Mr. A. H. Westwood, Birmingham's Assay Master, looks at them with his chief toolmaker, who produced them to ensure marking with minimum damage

THE WORK OF AN ASSAY OFFICE



HALLMARKS PROVIDE PROTECTION AND A SALES STORY

THE RETAIL SALESMAN can assume that the term "hallmark" has some meaning for the majority of his customers. Those who attach the adjective "hallmarked" to greenhouses and worsted trousers in their advertisements, assure us that this word suggests quality to the man in the street. This, unfortunately, is the extent of average knowledge. Few members of the public know much about assaying and hallmarking, and, we don't think it is untrue to suggest that few members of the trade know all that they should know about it. For, whatever the future of this ancient example of consumer protection, the trade is foolish, in this age, if it does not boast the fact that it has offered the public a guarantee of quality continuously since 1300.

In the middle years of the twentieth century, we are newly sensitive of our obligation to see that the public gets its money's worth. Which? flourishes, and the Board of Trade prosecutes away under the Merchandise Marks Act with full public approval. The salesman may be sure, therefore, that the public will be interested to be informed about hallmarking, and this article is an attempt to provide the salesman with some interesting background material on the working of an assay office.

We have chosen to describe the Birmingham Assay Office for a number of reasons. Not the least important of these is that it is run by a controversial Assay Master, Mr. A. H. Westwood, the sixth member of his family to hold the office. His contention that if laws exist they should be enforced, has made us more conscious of the hallmark and its significance in recent years. Besides upholding the law, he seeks to encourage manufacturers to hallmark even gold and silver wares for which hallmarking is not compulsory, and has improved his service and endeavoured to make the techniques of assay and marking as efficient as possible. And this has had its effect. Voluntary marking is catching on around Vyse Street.

The Birmingham Assay Master believes that the hallmark should be advertised, so that the trade fully understands its obligations, and the public knows about the protection the assay offices give them. The public should also be told, he contends, that if they have been deceived, the assay office will take the action that they could not be bothered with, or could not afford to take for themselves. Mr. Westwood regrets only the limited resources to carry out this campaign. He feels that the public are deeply suspicious of the jeweller and that the advertising of the hallmark could do the trade nothing but good. He would like to see at least £10,000 a year spent on this.

He is anxious to dispel the myths which instil fear of the assay office in the trade. The picture of an assay master gleefully smashing up a consignment of silver because it fails to assay by the merest fraction is best exploded by the figures the Birmingham Assay Office publish. Last year they marked 901,179 oz. of silver, and broke up only 7 oz. And although the figure for gold—which is commonly alloyed by the jeweller himself and is subject to the vagaries of lost-wax casting—was higher, it was still only a minute fraction of 1 per cent. of all the gold wares submitted. And the office, as we saw, bends over backwards to pass wares. They sometimes assay a piece as many as six times if they think that the rouge or grime rubbed into the surface of the piece results in its assaying below standard.

There is fear, too, in the trade, that if a customer is advised to send an unmarked piece, perhaps one brought back from Europe, for assay and marking, it will, if below standard, be smashed up, and the jeweller will have to bear his customer's wrath. The fact is, that a member of the public submitting a foreign piece that proves to be below standard, has one of three choices. He can either agree to the piece being re-exported; or he can sign a written undertaking that the sub-standard piece will not be offered for sale. Finally, he can let it be broken up.

One of the weaknesses of the assay system is, however, that every office is a separate entity, with its own organisation, its own attitudes and prejudices. It was advocated in the Stone Report that an overriding body, controlling the work of the various offices, should be set up, and this was

one of the few recommendations of this disliked report that was widely approved. But reform is as far away as ever, it seems. Probably, the Government has deemed that the wisest course is to do nothing, having observed that the trade is like the proverbial Irishman, in not knowing what it does want, and not liking what it gets when it gets it.

The present system, for all its faults, however, does protect the public and the trade, not only from deliberate frauds, but from the carelessness of manufacturers. Frequently, manufacturers who make the same product in gold and rolled-gold, get a rolled-gold cufflink, or a link or two of a rolled-gold bracelet mixed up in a parcel prepared for assay. These rolled-gold items would, if the assay office had not discovered them, have been sold to the public in good faith. Also, imported wares marked 18 ct. have, in the past, often proved to be below standard. Again, this usually is not the result of a deliberate attempt to defraud. Some countries, like Italy, allow a tolerance in assay, and it is only to be expected that the Italian goldsmith should take advantage of the tolerance. In other countries, assaying and marking are not carried out with the same care as they are here. French wares, for instance, are notorious for failing to assay, and one gathers that the French assay officer does most of his testing by touchstone. In persuading foreign exporters to tighten up on their standards, the assay office not only protect the public from buying substandard gold and silver, but also protect the retailer from possible action under the Merchandise Marks Act, as it is clearly an offence under this Act to sell something marked 18 ct. which is not, in fact, 18 carat.

The assaying and marking of gold and silver wares had been going on for centuries before Birmingham got an assay office of her own. As the eighteenth century progressed, "workers in gold and silver became numerous," though most of these Birmingham workers made only small wares, such as buckles and buttons. Amongst the silversmiths, though, there was one man of considerable substance and influence, Matthew Boulton, "the most enterprising man in different ways in Birmingham," who was turning his attention to the making of important silverwares at his Soho factory. The need for an assay office in Birmingham was brought home to him by his own experiences in sending his wares to the nearest assay town, Chester, 70 long, often muddy,





miles away. In 1771 he had to write an apologetic letter to an important customer, the Earl of Shelburne. Delivery of the Earl's candlesticks had been delayed. Boulton had sent them to the Marking Hall at Chester nine days before Christmas, and hadn't got them back until three days after Christmas, and, as if this wasn't enough, "the chasing was entirely destroyed by the wilful or careless packing of them at Chester." Boulton goes on to tell the Earl of his desire "of becoming a great Silversmith," but it isn't worth it "unless powers can be obtained to have a Marking Hall in Birmingham." Subsequently, in a memorandum he pointed to another disadvantage of the existing system. Delays and damage and the high cost of sending wares back and forth across the countryside were bad enough, but also, "Designs that have often cost them [the Birmingham silversmiths in general and, no doubt, Boulton in particular] considerable Sums of Money, and always Pains and Time, are communicated to Rivals, before the Inventors have reaped Benefit from them."

The growing trade in Sheffield was having the same difficulties, sending it wares down the long, slow road to London, and Sheffield and Birmingham jointly urged their common need on influential members of the Government who would give them a hearing.

The Goldsmiths' Company in London reacted fiercely in defence of their immemorial rights, and expressed horror at the idea that the marking of plate should fall into the hands of "ignorant and dishonest Country men." The goldsmiths, silversmiths and plateworkers of the City of London were equally indignant, and in a petition presented to the House of Commons suggested "that the establishment of Assay Offices in Birmingham and Sheffield might open a door to deceit and uncertainty," and tend to destroy the reputation of the goldsmiths. Later, the Birmingham Gazette reported that opposition "against those of the Country grows very violent." The silversmiths of London had deserted their shops and were on the rampage in the City.

In the end, all the hullabaloo made no difference, Birmingham and Sheffield got their Acts through in 1772, and in 1773 the first Birmingham Assay Master began work with four or five helpers in a room in a pub, the King's Head, whose sign is still preserved at the Assay Office. The Assay Master attended once a week, and he was controlled not by the trade—as were the Assay Masters of



Opposite page, left: *silver and gold wares are weighed in and weighed out. Balances are accurate to 0.001 of an ounce.* **Right:** *scrapings are taken from a gold chain with a 'pinkie.' The craftsman who does this work can feel a substandard link as he draws the 'pinkie' down the chain.* **This page, left:** *titration. This is how the ammonium thiocyanate is titrated into the solution resulting from dissolving silver assays in nitric acid, and then adding a chemical indicator. The titration deposits a silver salt, leaving a clear liquid, the colour of which indicates purity*

the older offices or halls, originally administered by the guilds—but by a board of 36, not more than nine of whom, or less than six, might be connected with the trade. The new office was also self-supporting, and derived all its revenue from the charges it made for assaying and marking. The Assay Master was appointed for life, and could not be removed from his office unless he was proved to be incompetent or corrupt.

There was no doubt that at this time incompetence and corruption were common "in the Country," and a Parliamentary inquiry was instituted in 1856, at the behest of the London Assay Office to investigate charges made by them. The conduct of the assay offices at Exeter, York and Newcastle was sharply criticised in the report, but Birmingham and Sheffield were praised for their efficiency.

Birmingham grew from a village to a vast industrial town in the nineteenth century, and the gold and silver industry and the Assay Office grew with it. By 1790 the Assay Master had been moved to offices of his own, and in 1870 the freehold in Newhall Street was acquired, and the office has remained there up to the present time. Today, 140 people are employed there. Birmingham is now on its eighth series of date letters (see page 71), and has a complete record of all maker's marks since the office was opened, so that any piece of Birmingham silver can be traced with certainty to its maker, whether it was made in 1860 or 1960.

Ten years after the Birmingham Assay Office was founded a duty was applied to silver, and a fifth mark was added to the original four—the date letter, the maker's mark, the anchor town mark and the lion passant gardant quality mark. The duty mark—the profile of the reigning sovereign's head—continued until the repeal of the duty on silver in 1891. A fifth mark has been added on two occasions since: in the jubilee year, 1933, when the profiles of King George V and Queen Mary, side by side, were struck; and in 1952 the profile of the present Queen was added to celebrate her coronation.

Last year, the 140 people working at the Birmingham Assay Office had 322,464 oz. of gold and 901,179 oz. of silver through their hands. The parcels arrive at the assay office either in the post, or by hand, from the manufacturers or importers, or they are collected in the assay office's own van. Parcels delivered before 10 a.m. are returned the



Gold assays, wrapped in lead foil are placed in cups in a refractory block, which is put into a gas furnace with a temperature of 1,100°C.

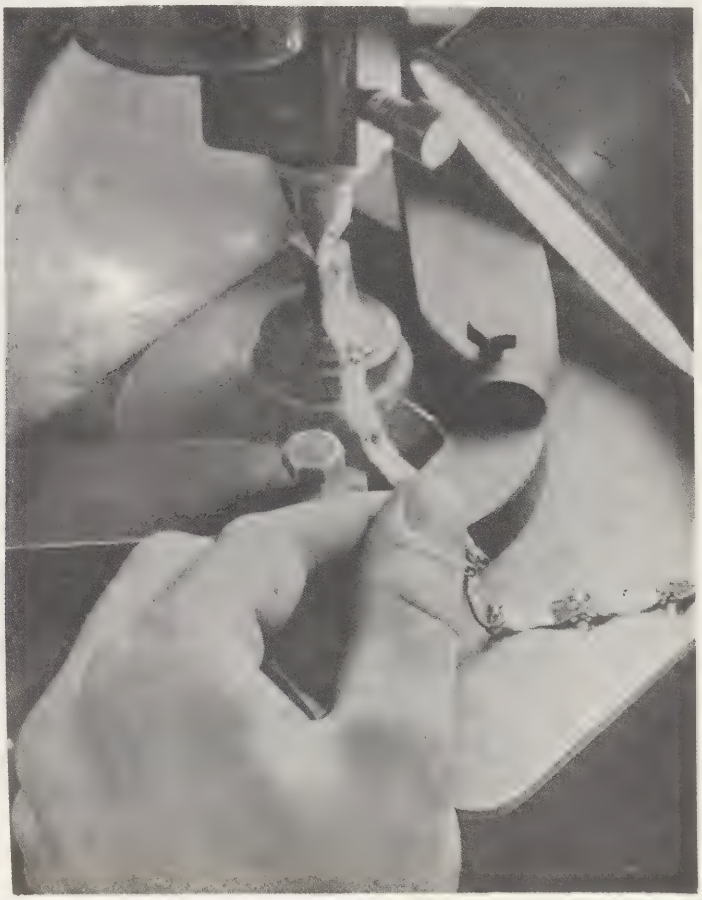
same day, while parcels delivered before 12 noon can also be assayed and marked the same day, on payment of a late fee. The staff do not work to fixed hours, they go on until the day's work is completed.

With each parcel a work note must be included, on which the sender enters details of the wares sent for assay. At the foot of the form is a statutory declaration which has to be signed. The sender is called upon to declare whether the wares are British made or not. This is the result of an application to introduce special marks for foreign work which the B.J.A. made to the Government in 1940. Birmingham marks foreign silverwares with a triangle mark contained in an oval. For foreign gold, the triangle is contained in a square with cut corners. To these marks are added standard marks, showing the carat or the percentage of pure silver, and the date letter.

Some manufacturers give the total weight of each parcel on the work note, though many do not bother. Again, some manufacturers also add instructions about where they want pieces to be marked, and so on, and, so far as it is possible, these instructions are followed. Mr. Westwood says, "An assay office should try to suit the manufacturers' requirements."

The parcels are next inspected, counted and weighed. Many of the weights given are inaccurate, as many jewellers' scales are old and untested. The assay office scales weigh to 0.001 of an ounce, and are checked and serviced regularly, and certificated weights are used. Accurate weighing is very essential, as the same amount of gold or silver is returned to the manufacturer as he sends in, the loss due to the assay scrapings being made up with gold sheet or silver wire. For this reason, too, dirty or greasy wares are not accepted; otherwise, the assay office would find itself giving gold for dirt.

Counting is essential, as some bracelets, for example, come into the office in as many as 24 parts. It is also desirable at this stage to try to spot brass patterns and rolled-gold components that have got into a parcel by mistake. The staff are rewarded for noticing these to increase their keenness. Mr. Westwood points out that the presence of one of these strangers in a parcel, gives him the legal right to smash up the whole parcel, but, in practice, this would only be done if there was a definite suspicion of fraud. "We do get tough," he says, "if it happens too often."



Modern techniques are used when this is possible. Jewellery is placed on one of the special beds, shown on page 64, and the marks are imparted by a press, as shown in this illustration

. . . THE WORK OF AN ASSAY OFFICE



After weighing and checking, the work is allocated to the various assayers. They must take drawings from every part of a teapot and every link of a chain. We watched the skilled worker in the photograph on page 66 using a "pinkie" to take an assay of a chain, drawing it along the links, taking three grains of gold from three of the chains. This is highly skilled work, as one false move with the scraper can wreck one of these delicate chains, and the degree of sensitivity required can be gauged from the fact that this man told us he could feel a link of a different quality as he drew the tool across it.

They do get complaints of damage caused by taking these assays, Mr. Westwood admitted, but many of these are the result of firms sending in delicate or highly finished work in a completed state. Sometimes, of course, damage is caused by the carelessness of a worker, and in this case the assay office explains this to the firm who sent the work in, and offers to meet the cost of putting the damage right.

When the scrapings have been taken, they are carefully weighed on laboratory balances, and the assaying begins. The gold is assayed by the old cupellation technique, which dates back to the civilisations of ancient Egypt and is described in an entry for 1663 in Pepy's diary. Today, full advantage is taken of modern equipment, and accuracy is much greater than it was in the past. The object is to remove all other metals from the weighed gold sample, so that only pure gold is left, which, in its turn, is weighed, and the percentage of pure gold in the assay arrived at.

The scrapings are first wrapped in lead foil and put in little cup-shaped depressions in a refractory block—the cupels. This block is then placed in a furnace, where it is subjected to a temperature of 1,100°C., and a current of air is passed over it. After half an hour the lead and the base metals in the gold have oxidised. The lead and the base metal oxides are absorbed into the pores of the refractory cupel. Only gold and silver now remain, in the form of a small bead. This bead is formed into a cornet, which is placed in a small platinum cup, and then boiled in nitric acid. Silver is soluble in nitric acid, so that it dissolves, leaving pure amorphous gold. This is then annealed into a malleable form and then carefully weighed.

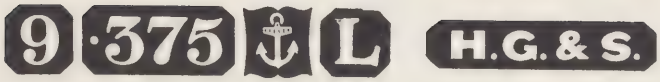
Silver is assayed in quite a different way. The silver is first dissolved in nitric acid and an iron nitrate indicator added. Into this an exact quantity of ammonium thiocyanate is titrated, and this reacts to form a silver salt, silver thiocyanate, that sinks to the bottom of the jar in which the assay is carried out. This leaves a clear liquid which can be compared for colour with a standard

(continued on page 12)















Opposite page: *sometimes pieces still have to be marked with a hammer and punch.* **Above:** *the marks.* **1** *Since the Birmingham Office began to mark, in 1773, seven cycles of date letters have been used. These are the seven styles of letters in appropriate shields. The cycles began in 1773, 1798, 1824, 1849, 1875, 1900, 1925 and 1950. Frequently the letter I was not used.* **2** *The quality mark used to indicate sterling silver.* **3** *A duty mark was struck on silver from 1784 to 1890. It took the form of the reigning monarch's head in profile.* **4** *The four marks placed on 9 carat gold.* **5** *The Jubilee mark, struck in 1933.* **6** *The coronation mark, struck in 1952.* **7** *Mark placed by Birmingham on imported gold wares.* **Right:** *this photograph shows a modern copy of a piece of 1756, made in Canada. Marks are faked. Legal in Canada, it shows that store is set by hallmarks abroad*



(*continued from page 10*)

sample. If the liquid is a lighter brown than the standard sample, the silver being assayed is up to standard. If it is darker, the silver is substandard.

After the silver and gold wares have been assayed they then have to be marked. Birmingham Assay Office use 15 different sizes of punch, the smallest of which cannot be read without a glass. Also, to mark pieces without damage, hundreds of beds have to be produced in the tool room (see illustration on page 64), and some of these are used only once. More recently, the assay office has introduced plastic beds for small wares. The plastic can be heated into a malleable state to take the exact form of the ear-clip or brooch to be marked, and when it hardens provides the best possible bed to support small, intricate work.

Wherever possible, marking is done by press, but large and awkward wares are still marked by hand, repeated and skilful blows of the hammer on the punch being necessary to produce a good, clear mark. The whole process of assaying and marking is highly skilled, and the Birmingham Assay Office in common with the trade as a whole, is finding it increasingly difficult to get enough skilled and trustworthy labour.

There are still a few people who do not submit their wares for assay. Some who sell substandard wares, and some who offer for sale goods with faked hallmarks. Against these, Mr. Westwood feels action must be taken: "if you have a law you must enforce it." This, as we said, is Mr. Westwood's contention. And the Birmingham Assay Office have, in recent years, instigated a number of prosecutions against firms who have transgressed the complicated Assay Laws, while the other assay offices have preferred to play a more passive role. It was inferred in the Stone Report that Birmingham had no right to prosecute, but Mr. Westwood took counsel's opinion and is satisfied that he has the right, as well as the duty, to uphold the law. Virtually, all the prosecutions have been the result of offences being brought to the assay office's attention by the public, or by a member of the trade who has been prosecuted or warned by the assay office, and then discovered that a competitor was committing the same offence.

What may happen is that a member of the public is sold, for example, a brass ring, as a gold one, and when it turns green reports it to the assay office. Someone is sent to visit the shop where the ring was bought. If all the rest of the stock seems to be in order, and the mistake was apparently made in good faith, then the retailer is asked for an explanation, and probably only warned not to do it again. If there is reason to suppose that other illegal stock is being offered for sale, a search warrant is obtained, and the case put before a committee of eight people, two of whom are in the trade. If they are satisfied that prosecution is desirable, counsel is briefed and the Law takes its course.

Mr. Westwood, who is not unaware that those who enforce the law may make themselves unpopular in some quarters, believes that such prosecutions are in the best interests of the trade. The more honest and the more careful the trade is persuaded to be, the greater will be public confidence. "The public will be less likely to ask themselves when they have spent their money at the jeweller's—have I been done?" The honest trader will also be better off because his less scrupulous competitors are discouraged from underselling him by offering substandard merchandise as gold or silver.

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BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE

BOULTON'S HOUSE AT SOHO

By J. E. Harley

BUILDINGS, like men of genius, often find fame posthumously. In Birmingham James Watt's Heathfield Hall, demolished in the late 'twenties, was widely lamented and the attic workshop of the inventor was given pride of place in the Science Museum, London.

Soho House, the home of Matthew Boulton, still stands and may be claimed the most historic dwelling left in the city. To-day, in its quiet backwater off Soho Hill, it is surrounded by houses and factories, the results of the Industrial Revolution in which Boulton played a leading role.

The house in its heyday is shown in an engraving in Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*. It is situated in a wooded park which stretches down the hill to Soho Pool, where Hockley Brook was dammed to form an ornamental lake. A white-sailed boat and swans glide on its waters and cows graze peacefully on its banks. Boulton's great manufactory is hidden in the valley by trees, its presence betrayed only by one small chimney. Shaw, writing about 1800 says: "Soho is the name of a hill in the county of Stafford about two miles from Birmingham, which a few years ago was a barren heath, on the bleak summit of which stood a naked hut, the habitation of a warrener." William Hutton, the historian, described Handsworth Heath in 1741 as "a wilderness of gorse and furze."

* * *

THE transformation of the place began in 1761 when Boulton, seeking to expand the "toy" business left to him by his father, leased a rolling mill on Hockley Brook and a "small dwelling house" from Edward Rushton. In a memorandum Boulton says that the house (valued at £300) was "almost bare walls." He expended about £500 "in finishing ye House within and in making a new kitchen garden, planting above 2,000 Firs and great variety of Shrubs."

The first occupant was Boulton's mother, but she left in favour of his partner, John Fothergill. Much to the owner's annoyance Fothergill neglected the place and Boulton remarked, "his love of money was greater than for a garden." The ground had not received "ye assistance of one load of muck since F's residence." Boulton decided to live there himself; he was almost 40 and had just remarried, his first wife having died in 1759. A son, Matthew Robinson, and a daughter, Anne, were born at Soho.

* * *

BOULTON was devoted to his family and was a most hospitable man. Although fond of entertaining for both business and pleasure, his main concerns were for comfort and convenience rather than ostentation. His fortunes in business fluctuated, his varied enterprises absorbing all his capital, and it was not until the late 1780's that he could afford to turn his attention to improving his house. His daughter Anne, who never married, lived with him, but his wife had died tragically—drowned in the "shell pool" in the gardens.

Boulton relied mainly on the architect Samuel Wyatt to redesign his house, but James Wyatt, his more famous brother, was called in at one point. Sam was a friend and much of the planning was done verbally. In 1787, however, Sam writes from London: "I send sketches for your House which may afford you some amusement." Later in a letter to James Watt, Boulton tells him: "The foundations for the new drawing-room and with-drawing-room are begun to be laid."

On December 10 Sam writes: "I have got your water-closet ready to send down." The bill for this was £11 2s. 3d.! A bathroom and dressing-room were also mentioned.

Another refinement probably introduced to Soho at this time was a system of central heating, but no records referring to it can be found. Two coke stoves in the cellars heated air which was ducted through the walls to the main rooms and corridors. This heating was additional to the usual open fires. One of these stoves has recently been discovered under the rubbish of a century and proves to be a modified Strutt cockle stove with a primitive cast iron heat-exchanger.

For the next few years there was a lull in the building activities at Soho House because, Boulton tells Sam Wyatt, he is engrossed in the planning and construction of the Soho Foundry.

* * *

THEN, surprisingly, in 1796, Boulton seems to have engaged James Wyatt to replan much of the house with the addition of more servant's quarters, stables and "offices." Boulton, confined to bed as the result of an accident, bombards the architect with fresh ideas and suggested modifications to James's drawings. Boulton's practical mind, realistic outlook and thought for others became evident.

"I find I want a back door for my intimate friends without them passing the kitchen or spoiling my walks at the front . . . where the gravel walk is littered with horse dung and in wet weather is broken up and totally unfit for ladies with satin shoes," he writes. And again: "I must own I think it unfortunate (when the country is covered with a January snow) to go out of doors from a warm fire to go to Bed and therefore I propose to pass through the kitchen to the stairs which lead to the Men's bedrooms." James replies shortly that he thinks "another doorway (for the men) will spoil the effect."

It is clear that James soon lost interest, for Mr. Boulton's tastes were not comparable to the resplendent mansions such as Fonthill and Ashridge. He failed to instruct and control his agent, Heaton, who quarrelled with the workpeople and allowed costs to soar; winter came on and much work had to be postponed. Boulton appealed to James in vain and even the bills for the architect's drawing were not sent in until 1811.

Evidently Sam had to come to the rescue. Nearly two years later he writes: "Enclosed I have sent you a Design for completing pour house. The Elevation of which I like better than any other I have seen yet . . . The columns are intended to be of slate and the capitals of Artificial stone." In place of the rascally Heaton Sam sends "a very blunt fellow who has a great deal of common sense and integrity about him." Work proceeded; slate fittings for the wine cellars were installed and three pairs of mahogany doors (costing £76 10s. 11d.) were sent from London. Finally, Sam writes: I hope that you and your friends enjoy your house and that you have great pleasure in the improvements."

* * *

BOULTON lived on to enjoy its amenities until 1809. His son, however, cared little for the place and retired to Tew Park in Oxfordshire. Various tenants were in occupation until 1860, when the western wing was demolished. This was done when the house became the vicarage for the newly-built church of St. Michael. Afterwards it became a girls' school, a private hotel and a hostel for students.

Although no personal possessions of Matthew Boulton remain in the house, there can still be seen the mahogany doors with their original fittings, the heating stove, the wine cellars and the Ionic columns. Above all, in spite of changes, an atmosphere of welcome and comfort still pervades the place as though something of the spirit of the original owner still lingers.

XPENSIVE HOBBY

obby or that it takes up a lot of be that you require a mass dis- ves because a friend is coming ou can obtain at short notice. greenery—and impale it at an er behind a piece of driftwood und, and to hide the tin, stand e a decoration which could last right is a design to fill the odd g to hold the leaves in place and Next I made three "flowers" by s and placed each "flower" sepa- rim was covered. If the stems are not long enough you can wire these rosettes to a piece of wood or a twig and insert this false stem through the wire. I have also had fun for a party by making the focal point of an arrangement with radishes or lemons. Do try it and see, but always keep the weight of interest in your arrangement low down.

JULIA CLEMENTS.



FOR HALL OR STAIRWAY

held by wire from which they are suspended in three dimensional effect (pictured on right of illustration).

These stars can be used in a large size to hang, topped by a spray of mistletoe or holly, in a hall or stairway, or, as seen here, scaled down and hanging on invisible threads to twinkle against the misty light of a net-covered window.

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Monthly Numismatic Circular
Nov. 1913

TANNIARVM Penny, 1805; — George III., Bank of England Dollar, 1804, by Küchler; — Token for Five Shillings and Sixpence, 1811, by Küchler; — Bank Token for 5 s. 6 d., 1811, by Phillp, draped bust with short hair, laur. to l.; — Bank of Ireland, Six-Shilling Token, 1804, by Küchler; — George III., Pattern Crown, by Küchler, 1820, DECVS ET TVTAMEN, Royal escutcheon crowned; Rℒ. VIS VNITATE FORTIOR. Hercules seated breaking fasces; — William IV., Pattern Penny, 1830, VICTORIA . MAGNÆ . SPES . ALTERA . BRITANNIÆ . SOHO 6 . AVG . 1830 in six lines across the field; Rℒ. from the die of the Britannia Penny of George III., 1806; — Another Pattern Penny, of same date and type, but a variety reading: VICTORIA . MARIA . LOUISA FELIX . TV . QUOQUE . MATER ! SOHO : 6 . AUG . 1830.

Tokens: Ipswich Theatre Ticket, 1803; — Charleville Forest, One Shilling and a Penny Token, 1802; — Halfpenny tokens of John Wilkinson, Iron Master, 1792; — Enniscorthy Bank Token, 1800; — Ibberson's Holborn, with large boar; — Isaac Swainson's "Velnos' Vegetable Syrup"; — Provincial Halfpenny tokens of Anglesey, Cronebane, Stort Navigation, Glasgow, Eccleston's Lancaster, Inverness, Leeds, Southampton, etc.

BAHAMAS. Halfpenny, Bust of George III., Rℒ. Ship in full sail, 1806 and 1807.

BERMUDA. Penny, by Droz, Bust of George III., Rℒ. Ship in full sail, 1793.

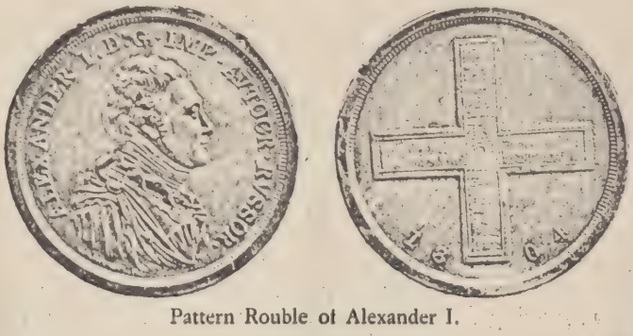
BUENOS AYRES. Æ. Decimo, 1822.

DENMARK. Christian VII., Pattern Species Thaler, Half Thaler and smaller denominations, by Küchler, without date.

FRANCE. Monnerons and Half Monnerons of various types, 1791 and 1792.

PORTUGAL. Pattern 960 Reis Piece of John V. of Portugal, 1809.

RUSSIA. Pattern Roubles (Æ) of Catherine II., 1796, struck on her death, and two others, one dated 1804, of Alexander I.



Pattern Rouble of Alexander I.

CLOSING THE SOHO WORKS.

The Mint at Soho continued in operation until 1850, when it was dismantled and the machinery sold. Most of the plant became the property of Ralph Heaton and Sons, who were also engaged in the business of coining. In 1860 Messrs. James Watt and Co. erected a new mint at their Smethwick works, and continued to turn out millions of coins for various governments.

Among the coinages executed by this firm at their Mint, Soho Foundry, Birmingham, are the following: — British Imperial: — Bronze coins dated 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863. They bear no mint-mark. — Straits Settlements: — Copper Cents dated 1875. Mint-mark **W** below the truncation of the Queen's neck. — Roumania: — Bronze Ten Bani, dated 1867. **WATT & CO.** below the crossed branches of oak-leaves and acorns and olive on the reverse. — Hong Kong: — Bronze cents dated 1875.

To-day the great bulk of the coinage business is in the hands of The Mint, Birmingham, Limited, which is the continuation of the original business founded by Ralph Heaton. This firm has supplied complete mints or coinage for almost every country in the world, from China to Peru, besides executing hundreds of tons of work for the British Government.

A few words on the subject of tradesmen's tokens are necessary to complete the account of the 18th century work of the Soho Mint.

The Anglesey pennies, were first issued in 1784, and were engraved by Milton and struck by J. Westwood. Those of 1787 and 1788 were engraved by Hancock and struck by the Paris Mining

Company at their Birmingham works. Those of 1790 were engrave by Wilson and struck by Williams. The die for 1791 was cut b Hancock and they were struck by Boulton at Soho. John Wilkinson token, 1793, was struck by Boulton from dies by Hancock. A earlier token for Wilkinson, 1787, was engraved and struck b Hancock, one hundred being done in silver. His tokens of 179 1791 and 1792, were also executed by Hancock. Wyon cut th die for a token of Thomas Welch and for the Brunswick halfpenn of 1795. Also for the Chichester halfpenny of 1794, which bears portrait of Queen Elizabeth. Wyon also did the Dundee, Edinburg and Coalbrookdale tokens of 1796, 1797, and 1799.

18th CENTURY "DIE-SINKERS".

The Birmingham Directories of 1775 and 1777 give a number of names of "Die-sinkers", viz: —

Daniel Bellamy, die-sinker and engraver, 53, Moor Street.
Thomas Clare, 15, Steelhouse Lane (afterwards in Bartholome Row.)
Jos. Crowne, die-sinker and shoemaker, 44, High Street.
John Emmison, 5, New Market Row.
Thos. Hands, 61, Edmund Street.
Thos. Piggott, sealmaker, 35, Bule Street.
J. Smith, 38, Coleshill Street.
Richard Taylor, 1, Slaney Street.
John Thornton, Chapel Row.
Joseph Troughton, Mount Pleasant.
Obadiah Westwood, 21, Great Charles Street.
Whitworth and Yates, Bradford Street.
Jno. Willinger, 44, Dudley Street.

Pearson's Directory, published in 1780, gives the names of twent nine die-sinkers, among which we may note specially Spencer Perr Cherry Street, and Geo. Wyon, modeller, 79, Lichfield Street.

Peter Wyon, Cock Street, St. Paul's.
Francis Arnold, 4, Little Charles Street.
Jno. Gregory Hancock, Hospital Street.
Roger Dixon, St. Phillips Churchyard.
Thomas Willetts, Great Charles Street.

"Chapman's Directory", published in 1803, adds one or tw more important names to the list.

Charles Pye, an engraver of the period, has left a careful list wi engravings of the Birmingham tokens of the time, and gives us list of die-sinkers as follows: —

Arnold, (?) Francis.
William Davis.
Roger Dixon.
John Gregory Hancock, also a manufacturer.
John Gregory, junior.
John Stubbs Jordan, also a manufacturer.
William Mainwaring, also a manufacturer.
Benjamin Patrick.
Spencer Perry.
.... Ponthon, Soho.
Thomas Willetts.
John Westwood.
Thomas Wyon.

As manufacturers he gives: —

Matthew Boulton.
Thomas Dobbs.
John Gimblett.
James Good.
Bonham Hammond.
.... Kendrick.
William Lutwyche.
Peter Kempson.
Thomas Mynd.
James Pitt.
... Merry.
Westwood, senior and junior.
Samuel Waring.

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undated coins greatly outnumber these and it does not seem worth while giving all their titles and powers in an article of this comparatively limited scope.

The following will serve as an example in the use of these tables: a sestertius of Commodus bears the legends M.COMMODVS ANT. P. FELIX AVG. BRIT. (*obv.*) and P.M. TR.P.XI. IMP. VII. COS. V. P.P.S.C. (*rev.*). Referring to the tables, it will be seen that the eleventh year of Commodus' tribunician power (TR. P. XI.) extended from 10th December A.D. 185 to 9th December A.D. 186. Although it is obviously more likely that this piece was struck in 186, some title must be found on the coin to confirm it to this year before it can be said with certainty that it was not struck in 185. If we look at the *obv.* legend, we will find that the titles *Pius* (P.), *Britannicus* (BRIT.) and *Felix* were bestowed on Commodus in A.D. 183, 184 and 185 respectively and are thus of no use in confirming the coin to A.D. 186. Turning to the *rev.* legend, we see that the emperor bears the title *Pontifex Maximus* (P.M.), but according to the table it would appear that Commodus became Chief Pontif in A.D. 180. His seventh imperial acclamation (IMP. VII.) was in 184, whilst the title of *Pater Patriae* (P.P.) was bestowed on him as early as 177; this just leaves us with COS. V. It will be seen that Commodus did not embark upon his fifth consulship until A.D. 186 and so this is the one title which confirms the coin to this year.

It is not always possible to say with certainty which of two years a particular piece belongs to, but where the number of the tribunician power is stated, the date of the issue of the coin can at least be tied down to a period of twelve months. From the time of Septimius Severus, however, this difficulty does not usually arise as the tribunician year normally corresponds with the calendar year.

(*To be continued*).

THE DIGGES LETTERS.

By R. W. Julian.

Part I.

Thomas Attwood Digges was born at his family's estate of Warburton, in colonial Maryland, in the year 1742. Warburton Manor was located near Mount Vernon, the estate of George Washington. Among Digges' ancestors were Sir Dudley Digges, Keeper of the Rolls under Charles I, and Edward Digges, Royal governor of Virginia in the 1650's.

Digges was evidently well educated, since he attended Oxford in the late 1750's. After his stay at Oxford he returned to Maryland, but does not seem to have stayed very long. Returning to England, he took up residence in London as a shipping agent. Presumably Digges was successful at this venture since he was wealthy enough to have his portrait painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, one of the foremost painters of the time. His business activities took him frequently to the Iberian peninsula, especially to Portugal. He was a frequent visitor in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, which probably accounts for his friendship with Matthew Boulton, the well-known English coin manufacturer.

With the outbreak of the War for American Independence, in 1775–1776, Digges' business activities went into serious decline. From the first he was of the ' patriot ' cause (for independence). In 1776 he managed to ship to American forces, through Portugal, some badly needed supplies. This was probably done under false colours, as was typical of this type of shipment.

Toward the end of 1777 or early in 1778 Digges became interested in the welfare of the American seamen imprisoned in Mill Prison at Plymouth and in Forton Prison near Gosport. He was instrumental in starting a public subscription for the relief of these men, which netted about £3700. The course of the war prevented further public subscriptions, although no doubt some money was given privately.

In September, 1778, Digges wrote to Benjamin Franklin, the American Commissioner at Paris, offering his services with regard to the prisoners. Digges became sort of an unofficial agent for Franklin, receiving drafts from the latter toward the welfare of the prisoners.

Digges was twice involved, through David Hartley, an M.P., in quasi-official peace overtures with the North ministry. Hartley, who also aided the prisoners, was a mutual friend both of Digges and Franklin. Digges' residence, at No. 23 Villars Street in London, was a rendezvous point for escaped American seamen.

In the early months of 1781 Digges and Franklin fell out over an accounting of the funds that the latter sent his unofficial agent in England. Since Digges never accounted for the money, there is some question about who was in the right in the matter. As President Washington openly acknowledged Digges as a friend, it is probable that Franklin was partly wrong in his accusations. The nineteenth-century historian's belief that Digges was an English spy is absurd.

Digges remained in Great Britain (he is known to have been in Ireland from 1785–1787) until about 1790. About the end of 1792 he returned to England to see about leasing some of his land to an experienced English agriculturist. Presumably he returned to Maryland shortly thereafter. He died at Warburton in 1821, at the age of 79.

Several points must be borne in mind when reading the letters of Digges printed below. First, he was worried about the consequences of a mass of counterfeit Spanish silver coins being dumped in America. The principal coin used in trade in the United States at that time was the Spanish piece of eight reales.

Second, unknown to Digges, the counterfeiting of Spanish Dollars was also being done in America. A Philadelphia newspaper of April, 1793, described a ring of Massachusetts men using the plating technique described in Digges' letters. In 1795 the Director of the United States Mint reported that gold was being openly counterfeited in Baltimore, Maryland.

Last, Digges was probably not so much interested in the counterfeiting of copper as he was in minting techniques. Digges wanted to inform Thomas Jefferson, the Secretary of State, in the newest methods of minting. (Jefferson was in charge of the mint in his capacity as a cabinet officer).

The Letters

The originals of these letters are to be found in the Jefferson papers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Only the first letter is specifically to Jefferson. The other two were presumably transmitted by Thomas Pinckney, the American minister to England. At least one letter, the first, was sent by Jefferson to David Rittenhouse, the first Director of the United States Mint. The second and the third letters are quite similar in content so only the first and third letters will be given in full. Parts of the second letter, of March 21st, 1793, that are not in the third letter will be included in brackets in italics. The first letter is very faded, accounting the number of illegible words to be found below. The symbol '♯' after three dots will mean illegibility (e.g. . . .♯). The letters are as follows:

Birmingham 10 March 1793

[Thomas Jefferson:]

I send you this letter in a book of Medals & Coins (as numbered and marked) which were done at Mr. Boulton's Mint at Soho near this place. Some of the trash of halfpence which are in local tho' current circulation in & about the Town to which they appertain are added to fill up the book; And as I know you have made the American Mint & Coinage much your study

they may serve as assistant samples towards perfection, those of Mr. Boulton being of a very superior kind.

I am at present engaged in this central part of England trying to get leasehold[ers] or annual Tenants for my lands fronting the President's on [the] Potomac and adjoining the new Federal City & Bladensburg[1] and I expect to embark for America in May or June. Not knowing of a safe conveyance to you, I have made free to send the parcel to and ask the favor of Mr. Pinckney to forward it, and as I understand from Mr. Boulton, he[2] had made some application for a die sinker, I have left open the book of coins for his inspection.

Since my letter to you by W^m^ Pearce the double loom maker and the original inventor of Arkwright's first weaving and spinning machinery, I have not had occasion to write, nor would I have likely done it before my embarkation for America. But as indeed not to do so from having accidentally seen a Birmingham production of one of the American Cents, the intended coin of America & the 1/100 th part of the Dollar. [would not be right.] Knowing it had been determined in Congress[3] to have all their money minted in the States, I made it my business to seek out and inform myself all I could about this Cent coinage here and of the Artists and Merchants engaged about them. —— I first apply'd to . . .♯[4] & Alex^r^ Walkins [sp. ?] (who have a partner Mr. Thos. Ketland [sp. ?] in Phil^a^), and they shewed me the specimens No. 16 & No. 17 sent herewith & afterwards gave them to me. They said it was merely a speculation or trial to obtain the orders for making the intended Cents here which induced them to the attempts in 1791 and that some hundred w^t^ or so had been sent to America and given to the President & other public gent^n^; But that on the determination of Congress to mint their own money, their scheme here had fallen thro'. They were close and secret as to who the diesinker was, where coined & . . .♯ but upon further inquiry I found Mess^rs^ Walkins [?] had ordered them to be done at Mr. Obidiah Westwood's (a considerable maker of those [these?] kinds of money), and that his die sinker Mr. J^no^ Gregory Hancock (one of the first in this place tho' with [the] Character of a dissapated man) and a[n ap]prentice lad J^no^ Jordan very clever in that line, had executed them, & . . .♯ this lad Jordan has years of His time [yet to serve as an apprentice], wishes much to go to America, but I suppose his time would be worth 200£. The face likeness on both are the same die and a good likeness of the President, but the Eagles and motto are different —— The likeness [of the President] was taken from a large medal struck at Phil^a^.[5]

Those inquirys about the American Cent and my intimacy with Mr. Boulton & Mr. Watt, led me to look at and study more the apparatus & mode of Coining, the expence attending Copper Coinage, than I otherwise shoud have done, and I suppose I need not inform you that Mr. Boulton is by far the neatest and best Coiner & has a more excellent apparatus for Coining than any in Europe. —— It cost him some thousands—The whole machine is moved by an improved steam engine which rolls the Copper half pence finer than Copper has before been rolled for the purposes of money. —— It works the . . .♯ on seven presses cutting the particular pieces of copper, & coins both the faces and edges of money at the same time,[6] with such superior excellence . . .♯ of workmanship, as well as with marks of such powerful machinery, that it must totally prevent counterfeiting it. By his machinery four boys can strike thousands of Guineas an hour —— Eight presses work four tons of Copper pr day —— four or five presses two tons pr day, and the machine, by the evolution of the great wheel, which is of cast iron, keeps an unerring account

of the number of pieces struck. It is not worked in the old way, but the metal is put into a kind of hopper & drops out into a bag, nearly smoothly as grain in a Mill.[7]

The excellence of his coinage is 1st The pieces are perfectly round—2d They are all precisely equal in Diameter —— 3d The work is exactly concentric to the edge, 4. An inscription or ornament put round the edge either indented, or relief, or partly one and partly the other, and this inscription is struck by the same blow that gives impression to the faces, whereas the common mode of making ornaments on the edge, is by a separate well known operation . . . which is much more easily imitated. 5. The ground of his coin is smooth and of a light polish. 6. Much greater quantities of money with all these perfections may be coined in less time, with fewer persons, & with more exactness, & safety to those employed, than by any mode hitherto invented. . . .# — a water mill will work all the machinery as well as a steam engine & will be better understood & managed in America —— indeed, the power of two or three horses might answer. Mr. Boulton told me he would sell the whole apparatus, excepting of the steam engine, (which is a considerable part of the cost) & it might be got to America (I think) for 11 or 1200£ . . .

[The remaining part of the letter deals with the exact equipment Boulton would include in the intended sale. Digges goes into the expenses of copper coinage, concluding that even the London mint made a fantastic profit on their copper coinage. Digges even quotes Mr. Obidiah Westwood on costs of token coinage. This part of the letter is not printed due to its general illegibility. He ends:]

If I can obtain any other information, or hear of a proper person likely to serve in this business [i.e. In the American Mint.] I will write you, I am in the interim with

great regard Sir yr obdt Servt
Th. A Digges

Eleven days later Digges wrote to Thomas Pinckney in London. In this short period of time Digges had found out a variety of coinage practices. One is led to believe that Matthew Boulton helped him somewhat in his researches. The more disreputable coinage practices Digges found, the easier it would be to sell a coinage apparatus to Jefferson. This is guesswork, however, since Digges claims credit for the research. In the concluding article, we shall discuss the second and third letters.

(*To be continued*).

[1] President Washington's estate of Mount Vernon was across the Potomac River from Digges' estate of Warburton. The new Federal City was of course Washington, D.C. Bladensburg was the scene of a battle between American and British troops in 1814.
[2] i.e. Minister Pinckney.
[3] Digges may be referring to the Congressional Resolution of March 1791, or the Mint Law of April 1792.
[4] This symbol indicates illegibility.
[5] This paragraph indicates that Digges sent the so-called Eagle Cents of 1791.
[6] At this time the edge inscriptions were put on the coin in a separate operation, prior to the actual coining, termed milling.
[7] In the mints of this era, planchets were fed by hand into the proper place.

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR THE DETECTION OF FORGERIES BY MEASUREMENT OF SPECIFIC GRAVITY.

By M. D. Day and D. F. Hollanders.

At some time or other most coin collectors come across a coin or token of unknown metallic composition. Often the piece will be a crude forgery of a gold or silver coin fashioned from base metal with intent to defraud. Occasionally, however, there may

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Marcus Aurelius—*continued*

A.D.	*Tribunician Power*	*Imperatorial Acclamation*	*Consulship*	*Other Titles*
165	TR.P.XVIIII. – XX.	IMP.III.		
166	TR.P.XX. – XXI.	IMP.IIII.		PARTH.MAX.MEDICVS. P.P.
167	TR.P.XXI. – XXII.			
168	TR.P.XXII. – XXIII.	IMP.V.		
169	TR.P.XXIII. – XXIIII.			
170	TR.P.XXIIII. – XXV.			
171	TR.P.XXV. – XXVI.	IMP.VI.		
172	TR.P.XXVI. – XXVII.			
173	TR.P.XXVII. – XXVIII.			
174	TR.P.XXVIII. – XXVIIII.	IMP.VII.		
175	TR.P.XXVIIII. – XXX.	IMP.VIII.		GERM. SARM.
176	TR.P.XXX. – XXXI.			
177	TR.P.XXXI. – XXXII.	IMP.VIIII.		
178	TR.P.XXXII. – XXXIII.			
179	TR.P.XXXIII. – XXXIIII.	IMP.X.		
180	TR.P.XXXIIII.			

Aurelius became TR.P.II. on December 10th, A.D. 147, and his tribunician power was subsequently renewed each year on that date.

Lucius Verus, A.D. 161-169

A.D.	*Tribunician Power*	*Imperatorial Acclamation*	*Consulship*	*Other Titles*
161	TR.P. – TR.P.II.	IMP.	COS.II.	AVGVSTVS.
162	TR.P.II. – III.			
163	TR.P.III. – IIII.	IMP.II.		ARMENIACVS.
164	TR.P.IIII. – V.			
165	TR.P.V. – VI.	IMP.III.		PARTH. MAX.
166	TR.P.VI. – VII.	IMP.IIII.		MEDICVS. P.P.
167	TR.P.VII. – VIII.		COS.III.	
168	TR.P.VIII. – VIIII.	IMP.V.		
169	TR.P.VIIII.			

Verus became TR.P.II. on December 10th, A.D. 161, and his tribunician power was subsequently renewed each year on that date.

His first consulship was in A.D. 157.

(*To be continued*).

THE DIGGES LETTERS.

BY R. W. JULIAN.

PART II.

In the last part we reviewed the first letter of Thomas Digges, sent to the United States Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson. In this part we shall discuss the second and third letters of Digges. Only the third letter will be printed in its entirety, but the second letter, in the parts that differ from or supplement the third letter, will be placed in brackets in italic lettering. Both letters were to Thomas Pinckney, the American minister in London. They are as follows:

(The second letter is dated from Birmingham the 21st of March, 1793).

Birmingham, 6 Apr 1793

Sir

[*I forwarded a book of medals and coins, intended for Mr. Jefferson, by a coach from here to London the 13th instant, which by way of saving you trouble I directed to Mr. Chapman No. 80 Corn Hill with orders to Him to send a porter with them to your hotel — By a letter from my friend, Mr. Jos. Johnson, to whom I sent a parcel by the same conveyance, I find they had not arrived on the 13th. I have written to Mr. Chapman about the parcels and I hope you get it by this day or tomorrow.*

Mr. Boulton, with whom I frequently communicate, intends going to London tomorrow, and will likely call upon you. It may be as well that you do not mention to him that I obtained any of the halfpence minted by Mr. Obidiah Westwood or that I mixed them in the same box with his so far superior Monies —— I told him I had made free to send the box for Mr. Jefferson open to you supposing it would gratify you to see his neat & excellent coinage.

Without supposing our Rulers in America will either employ Him to mint the Copper Coinage, or to purchase his beautiful apparatus, it was on this theme I spoke to him in order to find out the prices & information given in my open letter to Mr. Jefferson. — He is a liberal & very good kind of Man, but like other great artists, is a little close when applied to for information about men in the diesinking line . . .]

Having been some days with an archery & Fox hunting meeting near Coventry, I did not get your obliging Letter till yesterday, and have only to say in reply that the box of medals & coins was intended for Mr. Jefferson to whom I have before wrote on the subject of our coinage, & who will make every communication of such specimens to the American Mint which can in any way assist the artists engaged in it. I am very happy that no artist in the die-sinking way, goes from this quarter for the genius and wickedness of the place would soon lead to counterfeiting the American monies. —— I know of no preventive to the so doing but the coining with Mr. Boulton's invented apparatus, which from its exactness, nicety & being done in the Collar way almost precludes the possibility of counterfeit imitation. He is now busied in a halfpence coinage for Bermuda with the King's head & a ship or sloop on the reverse, also with some for Antigua & Sierra Leone. His son's illness has prevented his yet going to London, He will call on you, & perhaps upon enquiry he would mention the small sum he would take for his apparatus exclusive of the steam engine, for water works, or other force, will do equally well with us, and the engine is the principal expense.

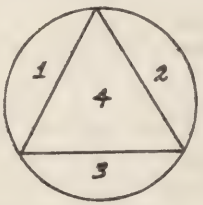
In the mention heretofore to you about Counterfeiting the money of other countries, you are to understand that Mr. Boulton stands clearly & honourably above all such vile proceedings, tho He must know some of the parties engaged in those practices. In your conversation you need not drop a hint from whom you obtained the information as to Counterfeits, which I think it highly necessary to apprise America of — I therefore here annex another account of these proceedings:

Since last my communications with Mr. Boulton and Mr. Watt, and my last letters to you, I have found out a variety of money coining practices here, highly disgraceful, I think, to the parties, to the Country and its laws; And in the instances I shall mention likely to do infinite mischief to the vast circulation of Spanish silver in the United States.

[*I have . . . seen pattern cards of shillings, sixpences, and half crowns of base metal* (*some of the shillings for instance so bad as to be marked for sale at the rate of* 28, 30, *&* 35 *shillings for the Guinea*)].

As early as March 1791 they began with the American Copper only upon reading the resolve of Congress to have such a money and the getting over a print of the American eagle. —— There were three different sorts of these Cents made here (the samples of two of which I forwarded for your perusal in Mr. Jefferson's Book) all with the President's head, not a bad likeness, & tolerably well executed —— I find, however, this was merely an attempt of some artists here to induce Congress to give Birmingham the order for coinage of their copper money.

Quarter Dollars, & Pistareens, (but principally Quarter Dollars) cut thus



into three or rather four pieces — an exact triangle taken out of the centre as No. 4. — The other three pieces No^{s}. 1, 2, & 3 of debased silver, is nevertheless to be run off as halves of the Quarter Dollar. —— The central piece No. 4 is again coined down, and is left rather plain in the dies (which were shewn to me with pieces of the money) and the crescent formed pieces No. 1, 2, & 3 struck to nearly as possible the stamp of that part of a real Spanish quarter Dollar. —— The pistareens were worse executed.

[. . . *They also divide the pistareens . . . with an equal triangular bit taken out of the middle . . . done by an order from a West India House in London, with intent to pass the three parts No.* 1, 2, *&* 3 *each as a half pistareen in the West India Islands . . . These, I was told, are an order for the Barbadoes*].

I have also seen Dutch Ducats, and Dollars which were done as follows — The Ducat was cut out of a pure piece of solf silver to proper size & to be easily bendable in the finger as pure Ducats are —— There is then a thick amalgum of Gold (which is made of quick silver and Gold & then squeezed thro' shammy leather) laid on this soft silver and then struck in the press to the exact size & marks of the Dutch Ducat of date 1752. This order came thro' English merchants from Holland & London soon after the declared and open assistance given by England to their High and mighty allies the Dutch —— The value of these forged Ducats is about one & sixpence with workmanship & all . . . they weigh about 2 dwts — 5 grs and by weight the real Ducat would sell here for nearly ten Shillings, so that here rests a profit of eight and sixpence on each piece.

Spanish milled Dollars are of three sorts, two only of which I have seen. The baser one is cut from a well silver-plated sheet of copper of due thickness, then hopped round the edge with a silver wire so thick as to not expose the copper if scraped moderately on the edge with a knife (a common mode here to detect base silver) and then is milled to the copied Die, of which there are more than one sort —— They are so well executed as to pass easily among others, and are in value workmanship & all about one and sixpence.

The other more pure Dollars the artists are more close and secret about, as being a better thing —— Those however come to Birmingham in real spanish or mexican Dollars bought at the Bank & other places, sent down by land carriage about 10000 at a time in a cask, and they are melted & recoined, copying as exactly [as possible] the old inscriptions of which there are three or four sorts but mostly the lank visage of his most Catholic Majesty, nine pence of silver being taken from each of the new coinage, & these new ones want but little alloy to bring them to a proper thickness — 2½ or three pence on each piece is ample pay to the artist here for dies, recoining, sending them back to London & all other expences so that the publick upon whom they are put lose nine pence in every four & sixpence and the . . .♯ has a clear benefit of sixpence on each. Upon close investigation no doubt remains upon my mind,

but they are meant for the West Indies or for the United States. *Six tons* of them & of other silver have been so melted down, since the beginning of August last! —— The Parties were very secret as to names but dropt to me upon being closely pushed, that it was done by them under an order in the regular way from a House in London wholly in the *East* India line, & that those Dollars were meant for the East: But this cannot be the case the people in that country being very nice and scrupulous as to silver imported coins. I have actually heard professional men (one in the Church & the other a Physician) speak of knowing somewhat of this last coinage & having recommended an artist for the purpose of doing it.

Assignants in quires, both stamped and signed, as well in blank unstamped, with the proper paper and all the French words necessary in the watermarks, executed so I was told in London & sent hither for the engravings, printing and finishing strokes — The *head* of poor Louis however (which is done by a stamp the same as is on the bills and notes here) appears now to be a want here and a loss to these schemers; one of whom told me, cursing and execrating the war, that he should have been ten thousand pounds richer if the declaration had been delayed a month or two longer —— Those assignants I saw were all for ten, twenty, and two hundred Livres each.

In like manner in the war time (and which I discovered during my agency under Congress for American Prisoners in England) did they forge and counterfeit Boxes of it, and others which got into America helped much the depreciation in 1779. In this place[8] such practices are held not criminal but a fair advantage over an enemy, indeed hardly anything else short of criminal among them for I never yet saw a people so totally devoid of principles, morality, and those lesser ties which bind and unite mankind.

[. . . *I have also seen paper assignants of ten and two hundred Livres. The paper is done in London, with the real watermarks, and sent here in quires for engraving and impressions, and the parties were so indiscreet as to tell me there were at this juncture several thousand pounds worth of it in London on its way to France. — This reminds me of Boxes filled with American forged paper which was taken in the War on the voyage from England to New York*].

I am with great regard and esteem
Sir yr obt Humble Servt
Thos. Digges

I direct my letter in a plain way,
as I have known instances of freedoms being
taken with Letters directed to public men.

The remarks of Digges concerning the counterfeiting of paper are interesting in view of what happened in the War of 1939-1945. Most readers probably know of the German attempt to undermine the English economy with the aid of forged five-pound notes. Numerous examples may be found in modern history of one nation forging the coins and notes of another nation.

SOURCES.

1. The Papers of Thomas Jefferson in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
2. Clark, William Bell. "In Defence of Thomas Digges," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. LXXVII, October, 1953, pp. 381-438.

NOTE.—Readers who are interested in further aspects of counterfeiting are recommended to read *Money of Their Own* by Murray Teigh Bloom (London, 1957). There are chapters on the Nazi counterfeiting operations and the Italian counterfeit gold pounds. Most of the book deals with the production of false *paper* money; there is little on coins.

8. Digges is referring to the people of Birmingham connected with counterfeiting operations.

they may serve as assistant samples towards perfection, those of Mr. Boulton being of a very superior kind.

I am at present engaged in this central part of England trying to get leasehold[ers] or annual Tenants for my lands fronting the President's on [the] Potomac and adjoining the new Federal City & Bladensburg[1] and I expect to embark for America in May or June. Not knowing of a safe conveyance to you, I have made free to send the parcel to and ask the favor of Mr. Pinckney to forward it, and as I understand from Mr. Boulton, he[2] had made some application for a die sinker, I have left open the book of coins for his inspection.

Since my letter to you by Wm Pearce the double loom maker and the original inventor of Arkwright's first weaving and spinning machinery, I have not had occasion to write, nor would I have likely done it before my embarkation for America. But as indeed not to do so from having accidentally seen a Birmingham production of one of the American Cents, the intended coin of America & the 1/100 th part of the Dollar. [would not be right.] Knowing it had been determined in Congress[3] to have all their money minted in the States, I made it my business to seek out and inform myself all I could about this Cent coinage here and of the Artists and Merchants engaged about them. —— I first apply'd to . . .# & Alexr Walker [sp. ?] (who have a partner Mr. Thos. Ketland [sp. ?] in Phila), and they shewed me the specimens No. 16 & No. 17 sent herewith & afterwards gave them to me. They said it was merely a speculation or trial to obtain the orders for making the intended Cents here which induced them to the attempts in 1791 and that some hundred wt or so had been sent to America and given to the President & other public gentn; But that on the determination of Congress to mint their own money, their scheme here had fallen thro'. They were close and secret as to who the diesinker was, where coined & . . .# but upon further inquiry I found Messrs Walker [?] had ordered them to be done at Mr. Obidiah Westwood's (a considerable maker of those [these ?] kinds of money), and that his die sinker Mr. Jno Gregory Hancock (one of the first in this place tho' with [the] Character of a dissapated man) and a[n ap]prentice lad Jno Jordan very clever in that line, had executed them, & . . .# this lad Jordan has years of His time [yet to serve as an apprentice], wishes much to go to America, but I suppose his time would be worth 200£. The face likeness on both are the same die and a good likeness of the President, but the Eagles and motto are different —— The likeness [of the President] was taken from a large medal struck at Phila.[5]

Those inquirys about the American Cent and my intimacy with Mr. Boulton & Mr. Watt, led me to look at and study more the apparatus & mode of Coining, the expence attending Copper Coinage, than I otherwise shoud have done, and I suppose I need not inform you that Mr. Boulton is by far the neatest and best Coiner & has a more excellent apparatus for Coining than any in Europe. —— It cost him some thousands—The whole machine is moved by an improved steam engine which rolls the Copper half pence finer than Copper has before been rolled for the purposes of money. —— It works the . . .# on seven presses cutting the particular pieces of copper, & coins both the faces and edges of money at the same time,[6] with such superior excellence . . .# of workmanship, as well as with marks of such powerful machinery, that it must totally prevent counterfeiting it. By his machinery four boys can strike thousands of Guineas an hour —— Eight presses work four tons of Copper pr day —— four or five presses two tons pr day, and the machine, by the evolution of the great wheel, which is of cast iron, keeps an unerring account

Mr. Boulton, with whom I frequently communicate, intends going to London tomorrow, and will likely call upon you. It may be as well that you do not mention to him that I obtained any of the halfpence minted by Mr. Obidiah Westwood or that I mixed them in the same box with his so far superior Monies —— I told him I had made free to send the box for Mr. Jefferson open to you supposing it would gratify you to see his neat & excellent coinage.

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As early as March 1791 they began with the American Copper only upon reading the resolve of Congress to have such a money and the getting over a print of the American eagle. —— There were three different sorts of these Cents made here (the samples of two of which I forwarded for your perusal in Mr. Jefferson's Book) all with the President's head, not a bad likeness, & tolerably well executed —— I find, however, this was merely an attempt of some artists here to induce Congress to give Birmingham the order for coinage of their copper money.

T. Prattent, Cloth Fair, West Smithfield.

P. Ratley, Duke's Court, St. Martin's Lane.

P. Skidmore, High Holborn, and Clerkenwell.

T. Spence, Little Turnstile, Holborn.

R. Summers, Old Cavendish Street.

H. Young, 18 Ludgate Street (now Ludgate Hill).

M. Young, 16 Ludgate Street. (M. Young died about 1838. His immense stock of coins was sold at Sotheby's during 1838 and 1841; the combined sales occupied sixty-one days).

There were many more dealers in coins in London then than there are at the present time nearly 150 years later.

Private Tokens.

The "Private Token" usually bore the appearance of a genuine trade token. The issuer of such pieces was a coin collector himself and he had a very limited number struck. These rare tokens were to be exchanged for similar rare issues struck by other collectors. Most of them were very fine examples of the art of the die-sinker.

Token Manufacturers.

Now I will give a few particulars of the chief men connected with the manufacture of these tokens whose names are frequently mentioned in the Notes.

Denton and Prattent: these two names are of very frequent occurrence as being responsible for many of the issues. Matthew Denton was a coin dealer and also the printer and publisher of *The Virtuoso's Companion*, which consisted of 240 copper-plate engravings in 8 vols., published between 1795-97. There were four coins on each plate. He likewise struck numerous examples of the tokens made for sale to collectors, which he duly illustrated in the above work. Thomas Prattent was a copper-plate engraver, and the owner of *The Virtuoso's Companion*. He engraved over half the plates for it, but the later plates are of much inferior work to those of the earlier portion; he also worked as an engraver on the various plates published in the magazines of the period. Prattent issued a token himself (see Middx. No. 459); although this does not bear his name, it is ascribed to him by Conder in his contemporary work on these tokens. Prattent mixed his own dies with those of other issuers; and at times he appears to have used some of Skidmore's, so it is difficult to say where the one owner ends and the other commences. He likewise made tokens for sale in connection with Denton, and *The Virtuoso's Companion* was used for advertising their concoctions.

Peter Skidmore issued one genuine trade token from 123 High Holborn; this pair of dies he mixed with others so as to make a great variety of tokens. He made quite a business of supplying contemporary collectors with several hundreds of tokens, and at times he even copied a rare token, e.g. his copy of the rare private token of Rebello's of Hackney (see Middx. No. 310). He likewise made false tokens like those of Rye, Blandford, Folkestone, etc. These he sold to persons who at the time did not know that they were not issued in the towns they were named after. The factory where the tokens were made was at Coppice Row, Clerkenwell; the site is now covered by the Farringdon Road. Most of his dies were the work of a man named Jacobs, who engraved all the dies for his numerous Buildings series*, such as his City Churches and the City Gates. Jacobs was quite an expert at depicting buildings but where he tried his hand on portraits it was in almost every case a bad failure. About 1796 Skidmore bought the dies used by

* I have included a record of Skidmore's Building series in their right counties, as towards the middle of Dalton and Hamer's book they appear to have been left out and no reference is made.

Thomas Spence, a bookseller and coin dealer of Holborn. These dies he at once mixed with others of his own, the resulting tokens being made for sale to anyone who would buy them.

Kempson and Lutwyche of Birmingham were two of the principal manufacturers of tokens and they seem to have supplied customers in all parts of the United Kingdom. Both at times struck tokens of mixed dies, which now go by the name of "mules"; these were sold in bulk for general circulation to any customer who would buy them.

J. Westwood was one of the finest die-engravers of the period. His long series of farthings or, as he called them, "half halfpence," together with the Macclesfield penny, the Malton penny, and the pence and halfpence of the Parys Mines Company, etc., are some of the finest examples of die-sinking of the period and are much superior to the general run of tokens. The firm of Westwood and Son were also makers of tokens at their factory in Birmingham.

Thomas Spence of Holborn was responsible for several hundreds of tokens. Many of his dies were made to advance his ideas for reform of the land laws. About the year 1795-6 he was in financial difficulties and, as a consequence, sold his dies to Skidmore of Holborn. [See my *Notes respecting the Eighteenth Century Token Coinage of Middlesex*, 8vo, 1906, in which work most of Spence's designs are explained].

The known die-engravers and manufacturers were:—

Diesinkers.	*Manufacturers:*
Arnold, *Birmingham*	Matthew Boulton, *Birmingham*
William Davies, *Birmingham*	Thomas Dobbs, *Birmingham*
Roger Dixon, *Birmingham*	John Gimblett, *Birmingham*
	Bonham Hammond, *Birmingham*
# John G. Hancock, Sen., *Birmingham*	James Good, *Birmingham*
# John G. Hancock, Jnr., *Birmingham*	John G. Hancock, *Birmingham*
— Hands, *Sheffield*	— Hands, *Sheffield*
Charles James, *London*	Charles James, *London*
B. Jacobs, *London*	# J. S. Jorden, *Birmingham*
# John Stubbs Jorden, *Birmingham*	— Kendrick, *Birmingham*
William Mainwaring, *Birmingham*	Peter Kempson, *Birmingham*
J. Milton, *London*	William Lutwyche, *Birmingham*
Benjamin Patrick, *Birmingham*	William Mainwaring, *Birmingham*
Spencer Perry, *Birmingham*	J. Milton, *London*
— Ponthon, *Soho, Birmingham*	Thomas Mynd, *Birmingham*
— Smith, *London*	James Pitt, *Birmingham*
Thomas Willets, *Birmingham*	— Merry, *Birmingham*
# John Westwood, *Birmingham*	# Westwood Sen. and Jun., *Birmingham*
— Wilson, *London*	Peter Skidmore, *London*
Thomas Wyon, *Birmingham*	Thomas Spence, *London*
	Samuel Waring, *Birmingham*
	W. Williams, *London*

Edge Readings on Tokens.

A few remarks respecting edge inscriptions may be of interest. In the first place these edges were put upon the blanks before the sides were struck, this explains why some tokens occur with different edges owing to the blanks becoming mixed. It is just possible that the manufacturers on executing an order for a token had some inscribed blanks left over. These unused blanks were then sold in bulk to another manufacturer so as to save the trouble of resmelting the metal. Skidmore, for instance, must have bought a large quantity of halfpenny blanks from Kempson, inscribed COVENTRY TOKEN, for this edge reading occurs on many of Skidmore's own Building tokens of Middlesex and other tokens coming from his Clerkenwell factory.